MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JUNE 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat's expulsion from Syria — In light of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "continued recriminations against Syria," the Syrian authorities informed him of their "desire" that he leave the country, a Syrian information official announced in a statement broadcast by Damascus radio shortly after 'Arafat's expulsion from Syria on 24 June. The statement reaffirmed Syria's desire to prevent Palestinian fratricide and heal the rift within Fatah. However, 'Arafat subsequently announced after arriving in Tunis that PLO positions in Al-Biqa' were besieged by Syrian forces and he warned of the danger of a "new massacre" to finish what was not completed in Beirut, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The PLO leader expressed surprise at Syria's decision, "which was issued even though I went to Damascus in response to an official invitation." 'Arafat told KUNA in a telephone interview that he holds Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad personally responsible for his expulsion. Syria's ban on 'Arafat includes Lebanese areas under Syrian control and its decision also applies to PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al-Wazir, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Al-Wazir told the radio in a 24 June interview that he will remain among the Fatah fighters in Al-Biqa' "regardless of the consequences."

Further Syrian Comment, Measures — Affirming that 'Arafat's expulsion from Damascus stems from Syria's concern to maintain Palestinian unity, the Damascus paper *Al-Ba'th* said Syria took this measure after it became certain that 'Arafat, "in agreement with foreign sides," intended to turn the Al-Biqa' valley into a field for Palestinian fratricide and drag to Syria into the fighting, Damascus radio reported. In a related commentary, the radio said 'Arafat's hostile behavior toward Syria was unacceptable under any circumstances. Stressing Syria's firm commitment to the Palestinian issue, the radio said that had it not been for Syria's steadfastness and principled stands, "some people" would have entered the White House in Washington instead of fighting to enter the "Palestinian house" in Jerusalem. In another development, the radio cited a Fatah official in Damascus as denying reports on the closure of Fatah offices in Syria. Another Fatah official confirmed that all Fatah and PLO offices and officials in Damascus were operating normally, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The Syrians have intensified efforts to avert clashes between Fatah loyalists and dissidents in Lebanon, the radio also reported.

Further PLO Comment, 'Arafat Activities — The ban on Yasir 'Arafat and Khalil Al-Wazir is a "serious precedent" and a "stab in the back for Palestinian legitimacy," Baghdad Voice of Plo radio stated in a 24 June commentary. 'Arafat subsequently flew to Prague for a 1-day visit during which he held talks with officials and addressed the World Assembly for Peace and Life, KUNA reported. In his speech to the assembly, which was broadcast by Prague television on 25 June, 'Arafat deplored attempts by both Arabs and non-Arabs to impose their influence by force on the PLO and undermine its independence. 'Arafat also accused the United States of attempting to liquidate the PLO, reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of the Reagan plan, and reiterated its support for the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East. After 'Arafat's return to Tunis the following day, Radio Monte Carlo said the PLO leader would shortly visit Saudi Arabia to brief King Fahd on the Palestinian-Syrian dispute.

Earlier, a PLO source in Tunis announced that 'Arafat will shortly call for a PNC meeting, KUNA noted. Several PNC members have cabled 'Arafat to request an emergency PNC meeting, Riyadh radio reported citing a PLO source in the UAE. In another development, the PLO charge d'affaires in Moscow issued a communique denouncing Syria's decision to expel 'Arafat and claiming that the PLO under 'Arafat's leadership enjoys the full support of the Soviet Union, KUNA reported.

PFLP-GC, Dissidents' Views — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) "has not participated in the military actions against 'Arafat's group" although it supports the dissidents politically, PFLP-GC Leader Ahmad Jibril claimed in a Radio Monte Carlo interview. Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa subsequently denied that Syrian forces have participated in the clashes with 'Arafat's supporters, whom he accused of starting the recent fighting in Al-Biqa'. Speaking in an interview with Damascus television, he asserted that his men are "unionists, not secessionists," and reaffirmed his demand that the dispute be settled by a Fatah General Congress.

PFLP-DFLP Joint Command — In a statement broadcast by San'a' Voice of Palestine radio, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced the formation of a joint military and political command to promote unity and strengthen relations between the two organizations. The measure, which is based on their intimate rapprochement and common ideology, does not represent an "axis" but is aimed at unifying and strengthening the PLO, the statement added.

Fatah-Syria Clashes, Tension — Baghdad Voice of PLO radio accused Syria of staging the attack on the Fatah convoy traveling inside Syria on the night of 23 June, asserting that Syrian forces set up several ambushes for the convoy. The radio subsequently reported "high tension" between PLO and Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' as the latter continued to besiege Palestinian positions and block supplies to them. Syrian special units surrounded positions of Fatah's Squad 17 in Jdita and Ta'lbaya, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 25 June.

Arab Comment, Diplomacy — The *Jordan Times* described Yasir 'Arafat's expulsion from Damascus as a "gigantic step backward" and cited an unnamed PLO official's opinion that Syria has made a "deal" with the United States against the PLO. Another Amman paper, *Ad-Duster*, provided coverage of support

for 'Arafat voiced by Palestinians residing in Jordan. West Bank and Gaza Palestinians also condemned Syria's expulsion of 'Arafat, according to the Jerusalem paper *Al-Fajr*, and Shaykh Sa'd ad-Din al-'Alami, chairman of the Islamic Committee in Jerusalem, described Syrian President al-Asad as an "infidel" who must be killed. Whoever dies in the attempt to kill this tyrant becomes a martyr, the shaykh said.

Meanwhile, President al-Asad held talks over the weekend with the visiting Saudi and Algerian foreign ministers, Damascus radio reported. Al-Asad also met with PFLP leader George Habash and held a telephone conversation with Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the radio noted. Before leaving Damascus, the Algerian foreign minister met with Palestinian officials and issued a statement expressing Algeria's support for the PLO in its attempt to preserve unity and independence, according to Radio Monte Carlo. In other developments, KUNA reported that the Kuwaiti Cabinet urged all parties concerned to settle their "marginal differences" and MENA quoted the Egyptian foreign minister as calling for "hands off the PLO."

Lebanon

Habib Talks — The United States is now less optimistic than before about the chances of persuading Syria to withdraw from Lebanon, IDF radio reported on 27 June following U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's meeting with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem.

Security, Military situation — Two IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush north of Sidon, the IDF spokesman announced on 26 June in a statement broadcast by IDF radio. Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported that Israeli and Syrian forces exchanged artillery fire in Al-Biqa' on 24 and 25 June. Druze and Christian militia also exchanged fire in the areas east of Beirut, according to a 27 June Beirut radio report.

Libya - Chad

Libya has not intervened in the current battles in Chad, which are between rival Chadian groups, the Libyan People's Bureau in Paris asserted in a statement reported by JANA. The statement reaffirmed Libya's declared policy that it will be "forced" to intervene if any outside parties attempt to intervene in Chad.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official accused Libya of supporting the fighting inside Chad in order to cause trouble and endanger its security and unity, Cairo radio reported. Egypt vehemently condemns foreign interference in Chad's domestic affairs, the official added.

Maghreb Affairs

A Saharan Red Crescent communique reported by APS accused Morocco of kidnapping and assassinating Saharan civilians.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces killed 200 Iraqi soldiers and wounded some 250 others in an attack on Iraqi positions along the border heights near Sar Dasht on 24 and 25 June, according to Tehran radio. A military communique broadcast by the radio said Iranian aircraft attacked and damaged an Iraqi oil jetty on 25 June. Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft attacked a "number" of Iranian naval vessels, destroying one of them, as they were attempting to enter the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio reported on 25 June.

Earlier, the Paris daily *Le Monde* reported that France has agreed to lend Iraq five Super-Etendard aircraft equipped with Exocet missiles for 2 years. The agreement, although not yet officially announced, is the first one ever concluded between France and a foreign "client" involving such important armaments, the paper added.

Iran

The Iranian authorities have executed Tudeh Party Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri, along with some 40 other members of the now defunct party, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio said on 25 June citing "reliable" reports. on 21 June the London *Daily Telegraph carried a similar but "unconfirmed" report.* Monitored Iranian media have not reported Nureddin Kianuri's execution.

Afghanistan

Geneva Talks — "Substantial" progress has been made at the Geneva indirect talks on Afghanistan, the UN secretary general's representative, Diego Garcia, said after the conclusion of the third round of talks on 24 June, according to Karachi radio. The UN representative is to undertake a new round of discussions in the capitals of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, the radio said, and will also hold preliminary consultations with the USSR and the United States as possible guarantors of a settlement. A UN Information Office press communique said that further progress has been made with regard to the draft text of a comprehensive settlement of the problem and that the discussions were held in a "realistic and give-and-take" manner, the radio reported. Subsequently, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan also assessed the talks positively by saying there was "steady" progress on the issues and "no deadlock" in the talks, according to another Karachi radio report.

Insurgent Activity — Afghan insurgents destroyed several aircraft and killed 16 Soviet soldiers in an attack on Afghanistan's largest Soviet-operated airbase on 7 June, according to SPA citing an Afghan press agency report. In other engagements, the insurgents claimed to have destroyed 5 oil tankers and other vehicles along the Herat-Qandahar highway, and killed 19 soldiers belonging to Soviet-DRA forces in an attack on Pashmul village in southeastern Afghanistan, SPA said.

Pakistan

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad denied the allegation of the New Delhi paper *Patriot* that Pakistan tested a nuclear device on 13 June, Karachi radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Syrian Statement Announces 'Arafat Expulsion
LD241641 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Damascus, 24 Jun (KUNA) — Today Syria officially announced that it does not want PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in the country.

An official Syrian statement disseminated by SANA has stated that "in view of Mr Yasir 'Arafat's continued false accusations [tajanni] against Syria and its sacrifices and principled stands, he was told today of Syria's desire that he should stop frequenting it [taradduduh]."

The statement said: "This, however, does not rule out Syria's care, and continuing work for preventing the infighting, healing the rift, and the establishment of harmony among the Palestinian brothers. This is because Syria's attitude is principled; connected with the interests of the Palestine revolution and the PLO."

'Arafat left Damascus early today.

Reasons, 'Arafat Activities Noted
JN241810 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Telephone dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris]

[Text] This morning, one of Yasir 'Arafat's senior aides told journalists that today would be decisive with regard to relations between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Syria. It turnedout to be true. The jar has been broken and the string between 'Arafat and Syria has been cut.

At 1045 GMT, 'Arafat gloomily left his office in Pakistan Street after the Syrian authorities had asked him to immediately leave Damascus. After 1 hour his plane took off for Tunisia. Prior to his departure, Abu 'Ammar indirectly learned that his presence in the Lebanese areas under the Syrian Army's control was also unwanted and that the decision which applies to Abu 'Ammar also includes Khalil al-Wazir (alias Abu Jihad), Abu 'Ammar's deputy commander in chief.

A Palestinian source, who declined to disclose his identity, told me that prior to his departure from Damascus, Abu 'Ammar ordered the closure of all the offices of Fatah and the PLO in Syria.

In this atmosphere, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus from Amman this afternoon. He arrived here only 15 minutes before Abu 'Ammar's departure for the airport. Abu 'Ammar did not manage to meet with the Saudi minister, who came on a mediatory mission between Syria and 'Arafat. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the airport and immediately accompanied him to meet President Hafiz al-Asad, who received a message through him from King Fahd, and asked him to convey a reply to the Saudi monarch.

A spokesman for the Syrian president said that the talks dealt with intra-Palestinian differences. The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on the way to deal with these differences and stressed the need to heal the rift and solve the Palestinian quarrel. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal then left Syria and Khaddam saw him off at the airport.

This chain of surprises began last evening when Abu 'Ammar suddenly arrived in Damascus via Homs from Tripoli despite the high tension between himself and Syria. He met with the USSR ambassador to Syria immediately after his arrival upon the request of the ambassador, who handed him a message from USSR leader Yuriy Andropov. It was the third message in 10 days. A Palestinian source said that the USSR leader is mediating between Syria and Abu 'Ammar, who asked the ambassador to convey a reply message to Andropov.

Unconfirmed reports said that last night Abu 'Ammar met with Syrian Defense Squads Commander Dr Rif'at al-Asad. Abu 'Ammar presided over a Palestinian command meeting attended by some PLO Executive Committee members and general secretaries, including George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, who did their best to solve the differences between 'Arafat's supporters and his opponents in the Fatah movement on the one hand, and prevent an explosion of a crisis between Syria and Abu 'Ammar on the other.

The Algerian ambassador in Damascus attended part of the meeting, and two USSR diplomats accredited to Syria attended another part of the meeting. It has been reported that Abu 'Ammar told the USSR diplomats that he escaped an assassination attempt on his life on his way from Homs to Damascus. The Syrian sources described Abu 'Ammar's statements as falsehoods and fabrications that are part of his accusations against Syria.

Observers believe that the real reasons which led to the Syrian decision were the statements and accusations Abu 'Ammar unilaterally stated out without the knowledge of anyone else in the Palestinian leadership. He accused the Syrian Army in Al-Biqa' of interfering on the side of the rebels against his forces. Damascus considered these accusations serious, and some Palestinian leaders denied them before Syria denied them in part and parcel. Syria then issued an official statement about 48 hours ago denying Abu 'Ammar's statements, warning him not to slander Syria, and reminding him that Syria will not yield to extortion. Abu 'Ammar ignored the Syrian warning and repeated his serious accusations in letters to the Arab leaders. The matter reached its climax when Abu 'Ammar repeated his accusation in Damascus last night.

Yesterday evening a demonstration was staged in the Al-Yarmuk Camp, near Damascus. It was a peaceful demonstration condemning the resort to arms by brothers in arms. According to a statement by the opposition group, some of Abu 'Ammar's men [words indistinct] infiltrated the demonstrators and opened fire to disperse the demonstration. They wounded seven persons and ran away before the Syrian security forces could intervene.

Accordingly, Abu 'Ammar today received a written message from Syrian Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, in which he warned him that he should leave Damascus before 1100 GMT.

Otherwise, the Syrians would deport him. Abu 'Ammar's plane took off 15 minutes before the deadline of the ultimatum. A short while ago, after this dispatch was prepared, I received reports on the eruption of fresh clashes in eastern Al-Biqa'. No details are yet available about these clashes.

'Arafat Accuses Syria of 'Liquidating' Palestinians

LD250943 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Kuwait 25 Jun (KUNA) — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, in a press statement published here today, denied that there is a split in the Fatah movement, largest of the Palestinian resistance factions, and accused Syria of being responsible for what is happening inside the ranks of the movement and accused the Syrian Government of attempting to liquidate the Palestinians.

He told the Kuwaiti *Al-Qabas*, in a telephone conversation with him in Tunis after Syria's decision to deport him from its territory yesterday, "that the recent operation is not a dissident operation because we do not have dissidents — it is Syrian's second ploy." He stated that "in 1976 they tried to hit us through a Palestinian officer, Misbah al-Budayri, and another, Zuhayir Muhsin, and they failed. Now it is through Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih]."

He added: "The Palestinians have had enough massacres. They are trying to liquidate us. In the first instance we left Beirut by an Israeli decision and today we leave by a Syrian decision." He said: "What the Israelis failed to do in Beirut is now being achieved in Al-Biqa'."

'Arafat charged Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad with "personal responsibility" for what is happening. He said "our bases in Al-Biqa' are encircled by Syrian tanks and special forces, and the Syrian president is personally responsible for what is happening." He added: "I have made a call to President Asad appealing to him to spare Palestinian blood which was shed in Beirut in defense of the honor of the Arab nation and I have charged him with the responsibility."

'Arafat Arrives in Tunis, Protests Expulsion

NC241849 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Tunis, June 24 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO's Executive Committee, arrived here today from Damascus after being expelled by the Syrian authorities. Mr 'Arafat accused the Syrians of planning a "new massacre" of the Palestine people.

Protesting his expulsion from Syria today, the PLO leader said all Fatah bases in Lebanon were surrounded by Syrian armoured vehicles and commandos, and that "the crunch" was imminent.

Appeals to Al-Asad

JN241840 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Jun 83

[From the "It Happened Tomorrow" program]

[Text] A few minutes ago Abu 'Ammar arrived in Tunis. Immediately after his arrival, our colleague Nabil Darwish contacted him. Abu 'Ammar gave him the following exclusive statement.

[Begin Darwish recording] I am, said Abu 'Ammar, surprised that this decision was issued, even though I went to Damascus in response to an official invitation. I have as much in Damascus as any Arab or Syrian struggler has. The serious thing is that all our centers and positions are being besieged by Syrian tanks and Syrian special units. What I fear most is that what is happening may be the beginning of a new massacre, which will complete what was not completed in Beirut.

Despite all that has happened to me in Damascus today, I appeal to President Hafiz al-Asad to work promptly to stop this massacre to which the Palestinian revolutionaries are being exposed. [end Darwish recording]

To Call PNC Meeting

LD242042 Kuwait KUNA in English 2008 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Tunis, June 24 (KUNA) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is to invite the Palestinian National Council — parliament in exile — to a meeting "within two weeks," a ranking Palestinian source told KUNA Friday. The source, who refused to be identified, said venue of the proposed meeting is "currently under consideration."

The source made the announcement upon the arrival here of 'Arafat from Damascus, a few hours following an official Syrian statement saying he is not welcome in Syria anymore.

PLO's 'Arafat Supporters Condemn Syrian Move

LD241656 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1646 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon 24 Jun KUNA — The PLO — through the Palestine news agency WAFA — today rejected the Syrian decision not to permit PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to remain in Syrian territory,saying that it "constitutes a serious precedence in dealing with the Palestine people and the symbol of their struggle, Yasir 'Arafat."

Khalil al-Wazir Discusses Expulsion

JN242005 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal's 24 June telephone interview with Khalil al-Wazir, identified here by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] We have learned that you are banned from entering Syria. Have you been officially informed yet of the decision?

[Al-Wazir] This Morning, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told me while he was in Damascus that a decision had been issued. At any rate, we say that Syria is an Arab country and part of our great Arab homeland. It is also our country. Therefore, the question is not one of banning this or that person. There is a more important question which we must tackle and ask why all this is happening.

[Nawfal] The Syrians were surprised that Abu 'Ammar had returned to Damascus. They have now asked him to immediately leave Syrian territory. The crisis with Damascus has thus reached its peak. What can you, the 'Arafat supporters, do?

[Al-Wazir] First of all, Brother Abu 'Ammar returned to meet with some brother Syrian officials in Damascus to follow up on certain business. Therefore, his visit was not a surprise. Second, when we in the Fatah leadership see such measures and facilities, and when we and all others see this concern for the other side, we still say that we hope that our brothers in Syria will resort to their consciences in the interest of the Palestine question and Palestinian struggle and that they will adopt measures in the interest of this issue, the issue of all Arab struggle, because striking at the Fatah Movement and Fatah unity definitely means striking at the Palestinian revolution.

[Nawfal] In your opinion, did Yasir 'Arafat know that Damascus would behave in this manner? If he knew that, why did he return to Damascus yesterday?

[Al-Wazir] First of all, Brother Abu 'Ammar, the entire Fatah leadership, and the entire Palestinian revolution are confident that Syria is also our country, because it is part of our Arab homeland. When we the Palestinians move into any part of the Arab homeland, it is because we are compelled to be in these positions to continue our struggle. It is a national and pan-Arab duty for the others to give us support and assistance. Brother Abu 'Ammar returned like other members of the leadership. They were confident and hopeful that they would receive all facilities and that there would not be any obstacles. The Fatah Movement gave a great push [to Syria's prestige] when it held a meeting of its Revolutionary Council in Damascus, and when it held a meeting of the Fatah Central Committee 2 days earlier. This meant that we were establishing a basis for our faith that our relations with our brothers in Syria are objective and natural. Therefore, what happened came as a surprise to Brother Abu 'Ammar and to us and caused deep pain and bitterness to all of us. We hope that this will be just a passing cloud.

[Nawfal] But Abu 'Ammar is accused of having toughened his language with Damascus. It is as if he wants to involve it and to say that he stands for the full independence of his decisionmaking at any cost. Was this, indeed, the purpose?

[Al-Wazir] The question is not one of using tough language. Are we not allowed to speak up when we are being stabbed by daggers? This is a basic question. Words are nothing compared to what is actually taking place on the ground, when we see many obstacles and stands on which we do not want to elaborate now. The time has not yet come to talk about such matters, because we prefer to keep everything in our hearts. But when Brother Abu 'Ammar utters a few words or when we say something about a certain stand, behavior, or measure, it is because we want to sound the alaram so we can find a solution and a remedy to the issue and avoid its being complicated on the ground while we remain silent. This is the position.

[Nawfal] Do you personally intend to remain in Al-Biqa'?

[Al-Wazir] I am talking to you from Al-Biqa'. We will remain among our brother fighters in Al-Biqa' regardless of the consequences. Brother Abu 'Ammar will also be among his brother strugglers regardless of the consequences. We will not be affected by any decision or measure in this respect. We will remain with our brothers regardless of the development of these circumstances.

[Nawfal] Some people say that you might go to Tripoli.

[Al-Wazir] Irrespective of whether it is Tripoli, Ba'labakk, or Al-Biqa'. the main thing is that we remain with our brother fighters. We say that we insist that matters should follow their normal course and not get further complicated. For our part, we are trying to prevent an escalation of the situation. If some of the statements we have made have been considered an escalation of the situation, it should be understood that those statements were only made to draw attention to the way matters were developing on the ground. We are doing this to prevent the wound from getting bigger and also to prevent the loss of more victims, as was the case yesterday in Homs on the Ba'lulah-An-Nabak road when 10 persons were killed or wounded in an ambush. What does this mean? Where did it happen? Why does it happen? In what atmosphere is this happening? These questions are raised elsewhere. We say, let us make statements to stop such developments rather than see these developments intensify.

[Nawfal] But the stay in Al-Biqa' may not be guaranteed. There are the dissidents and the Syrian forces.

[Al-Wazir]0 We will remain among our brothers regardless of the circumstances and developments. We are confident that we are among our brothers in these positions regardless of the consequences.

[Nawfal] In other words, you are ready to fight?

[Al-Wazir] Brother, we are doing our utmost to avoid any fighting within the Palestinian arena. The picture is very clear. The Fatah leadership has resorted to every method of dialogue. It has sent delegations and envoys and used every friend who could help solve this matter. We have resorted to every means. Every envoy was given every assistance to achieve a solution. When there people launch attacks on their brother fighters, it is in order to drag the Palestinian arena into violence. We are avoiding that at all costs. Even when they attack our positions and centers, we avoid further development of the fighting. Our reply is very limited. This has been our policy so the Palestinian arena will not be scene of intra- Palestinian and later Palestinian-Arab fighting.

[Nawfal] Before leaving his headquarters in Damascus, 'Arafat requested a meeting with two officials of the Soviet Embassy. Can the Soviets still play a role in solving the crisis with Damascus?

[Al-Wazir] As you know, we are constantly working in all fields and on levels to encourage anyone who can put an end to the crisis and prevent further deterioration of the situation to do so. Therefore, we encouraged all the Arab delegations that came. We told them: Go and talks to our brothers and see what solution we can reach. Brother Abu 'Ammar has sent messages to our friends everywhere to quickly prevent the escalation of the situation and to reach a solution. Therefore, we are cooperating with our Soviet comrades and the comrades from the Socialist Bloc countries. We are also cooperating with our Arab brothers and friends everywhere. We have acquainted them with what is happening and asked them to do their utmost to prevent an escalation in the situation, as this will only divert our attention from the real battle of confronting our enemy in the confrontation battlefield. Is it not very painful and disheartening when the fighter who is aiming his rifle at the enemy finds that he is being shot at from behind and is thus compelled to change the direction of his rifle? This is the question. Those who say that they only want to redecorate the ship's corridors should know that the ship itself is sinking. Is there any room for talks about redecoration? This is the question. The PLO and the unity of Fatah and the Palestinian revolution are now in jeopardy. We must do our best to protect them so the cause will remain alive with all its revolutionary heritage and so its image will not be distorted before the world, which has respected us as revolutionaries and strugglers throughout the past years when we scored victories and made sacrifices.

[Nawfal] Are you satisfied with the positions of the other resistance groups?

[Al-Wazir] We appreciate our brothers in all groups. Our brothers in the Popular Front [PFLP], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and the other organizations are closely following the developments. You have heard the frank position which the PFLP-GC adopted in support of the dissident group. The PFLP-GC and some Libyan forces are cooperating with the dissident group. The PFLP-GC has actually participated in all battles in the past. This is clear to all fighters and to everyone in this region. There is no need for details. We say that the unity of the Palestinian revolution is a trust borne by every Palestinian fighter. Whoever tries to undermine this unity and the progress, continuity, and safety of the revolution will be accountable before history and his people as having stabbed his national struggle in the back, regardless of his reasons, excuses, or slogans.

[Nawfal] You have spoken about Libya's interference. Have the Syrian forces also interfered?

[Al-Wazir] What we are saying is that we want to talk no more about these matters. But we hope to make a serious effort to review everything that has happened on the ground. We will assess what has happened and try to plug all loopholes which may occur. Even now, we emphasize and insist that matters should not develop further and drown us in a sea of problems and recriminations — this happened and this did not happen — so as to maintain the fraternity of confronting the Zionist enemy in the battlefield.

[Nawfal] But what could happen now?

[Al-Wazir] For our part, we say that we will be very patient and try as much as possible to tackle matters in an objective manner. We will discuss matters objectively with our brothers so as to attain a remedy. This is what we insist on. Our efforts are now devoted to this end. If Brother Abu 'Ammar and other brothers have left Damascus, other brothers will remain to try to find a way for agreement. We say that it is not in anyone's interest, syria's, the Palestinian revolution's, or the Arab cause's, for matters to become more complicated. This is what we are always working for.

Khalid al-Hasan Interviewed

JN242237 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal's 24 June telephone interview with Khalid al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, in the weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" — date, place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Brother Khalid, how did you receive Damascus' request to Yasir 'Arafat to leave its territory?

[Al-Hasan] I received it with great astonishment. I can hardly believe that Syria can adopt such a stand. There must have been some misunderstanding. Therefore, every effort must be made to remove it. Syria cannot stay away from the PLO or vice versa. Perhaps the Arab brothers now in Damascus are tackling the situation with the required wisdom in the general interest, which we need at this delicate phase more than at any time before.

[Nawfal] Can the USSR not play a role? I am asking you this question because you, the moderate, have been in Moscow recently.

[Al-Hasan] The USSR's position is absolutely clear on this matter. I wish the Arab position were as clear. The USSR is exerting efforts in a quiet and calm manner. I hope it will succeed in view of its influence over our Syrian brothers.

[Nawfal] Do you consider Damascus responsible for what is happening inside Fatah? Do you believe that Damascus has participated in the recent battles between 'Arafat's supporters and the dissidents?

[Al-Hasan] Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhdafi alone is playing a role on behalf of all the other Arabs.

[Nawfal] Some people say that what is taking place now in the Palestinian arena will have an impact on the future of the organization. The results will either be 'Arafat's resignation or his continued stay at the head of the organization, but with reduced powers. How do you see the future of 'Arafat, the organization, and the Fatah movement?

[Al-Hasan] Regarding this extremely sensitive subject, we have to distinguish between two positions: first, 'Arafat's position vis-a-vis the Palestinian popular organizational base; this position is absolutely unblemished. Nobody rivals 'Arafat in his position, powers, or responsibilities. Still, the Palestinian house is in need of a great deal of reorganization toward revolutionary decisiveness. It seems to me that we have indulged in democracy more than necessary. Second, the Arab position; this position has no connection with 'Arafat's powers and position, which are the result of a Palestinian decision. But we must also realize that, if the Arabs want to adopt a hostile attitude toward the PLO, they can hamper the movement of the organization in the Arab arena and even in the international arena. But if such a position is taken, it would mean a reversal of the Arab position in the interest of the U.S. position. You will recall that Shultz has asked the Arabs to withhold their recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also said after the PLO's departure from Beirut that the organization had lost its military strength and no longer had a political role. I do not think that the Arabs are thinking of achieving the U.S. objective in this respect for internal reasons if not as a matter of principle.

[Nawfal] What did you mean when you said: We have indulged in democracy more than necessary? Do you mean that the dissidents must be cut down to size even by force?

[Al-Hasan] Force has a thousand meanings. I do not mean military force, because we must completely avoid the use of force in solving any problem, whether big or small, in the Palestinian arena. By revolutionary decisiveness, I mean thtat matters must not be left untackled until they become a problem. Problems must be nipped in the bud.

[Nawfal] A disagreement has emerged within Fatah. Does this mean that the other organizations and factions have nothing to do with the settlement of accounts within the one movement?

[Al-Hasan] With the exception of Ahmad Jibril, who is playing the role of an agent for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his schemes in the Palestinian arena, the other organizations, particularly the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestine Liberation Front — Abu al-'Abbas' group — are adopting an excellent stand at the side of the Palestinian legitimacy and are against what has happened. The subject of Ahmad Jibril is another subject. He is not exercising this role only at this time. He has been exercising his dissident role since 1966. The stand of the other organziations is sound. These organizations realize that whatever afflicts Fatah will reflect more seriously on them than on Fatah.

[Nawfal] Do you think that direct Arab intervention is today required to help settle the difference?

[Al-Hasan] It is natural that a wise, clear Arab intervention is required. The situation may not require propaganda clamor, but there should be Arab action, even if this requires the convocation of an Arab summit to discuss matters in a clear, frank manner. However, what is more important is that the Palestinian leadership agree with the brothers in Syria on a clear stand which would regulate relations and prevent gossip, because it seems to me that much information is submitted to the high leadership to instigate, perplex, and create problems.

[Nawfal] One of the currently prevailing considerations is that, if 'Arafat wants to restore his full power over Fatah and the PLO, he should relinquish his moderate line and say no to solution plans, no to Fes and, of course, no to Reagan's plan.

[Al-Hasan] First of all Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] jurisdiction and status have not been shaken in Fatah or the PLO. This was verified by the recent Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting, which was unanimously approved by all and which was authorized by the Fatah Central Committee to adopt the necessary measures in order to maintain the movement's security and to confront the rebellion or dissidence. The Central Committee condemned the rebellion and its repercussions. Such a unanimous stand indicates the great confidence the Fatah leadership, headed by Brother Abu 'Ammar, enjoys. Moreover, the stand of Brothers George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and Abu al-'Abbas was very honorable and indicative of their strong connection with Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. Even the dissident Abu Musa indicated that Yasir 'Arafat is the symbol and leader and consequently [words indistinct] Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. One is pained to see that many brothers in the Arab world and even in the Palestinian arena respond to the Western news media which want to suggest that 'Arafat is on the verge of collapse or downfall and that the issue is that of 'Arafat's leadership.

As for Yasir 'Arafat's line, I must point out that, although we in the Palestinian arena, particularly within Fatah, speak loudly with the masses in the organizational seminars or even in the official meetings and express different opinions, there will eventually be a decision. When a decision is issued all will abide by it. Yasir 'Arafat is one of those who abide by the decisions of the leadership. You may recall that, when there were talks with Jordan, Brother Yasir 'Arafat did not sign the agreement he reached with His Majesty King Husayn. He asked to consult his leadership. When the leadership rejected the draft agreement 'Arafat was the first to respond to this rejection. The PNC also adopted resolutions to which 'Arafat abided. Accordingly, we do not have anything called moderation or extremism in this regard. We adopt the sound stand at the right time.

Moscow PLO Embassy Statement

LD261700 Kuwait KUNA In Arabic 1640 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jun (KUNA) — Today, the PLO Embassy here denounced Syria's decision to expel Yasir 'Arafat from its territory, and said that Mr 'Arafat represents the Palestinian legality. The organization's representative here, Mr Rami ash-Sha'ir, said that there is no truth in the reports that the Soviet Union supports the opposition against 'Arafat.

Mr ash-Sha'ir said: 'Arafat does not belong only to the Palestinian people but to all revolutions, all world liberation movements and all peoples struggling for freedom and peace.

He pointed out that a genenral discontent had engulfed Soviet popular and official circles following Syria's decision to order Mr 'Arafat out of Syrian territory. Such an action contradicts Syria's

previously declared attitude to confront the American-Israeli-Lebanese agreement. Mr ash-Sha'ir added: The danger constituted to imperialist and Zionist interests in the Middle East by the Palestinian revolution has prompted the White House to take practical steps to limit this danger. It has instructed its agents in the region to perform this task, those agents who, until quite recently, have been hiding under the disguise of nationalism and claiming their anxiety for the Palestinian revolution and the interests of our Arab peoples.

He said: The prevention of 'Arafat and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] from entering Syrian territory is a decision that serves American and Zionist intentions which include the elimination of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab liberation movement.

In his press conference Mr ash-Sha'ir drew attention to the seriousness of the conspiracy which has begun to assume a more public and overt role. He believes the expulsion of 'Arafat and Abu Jihad to be a prelude to an operation to strike all the progressive forces in the Arab area, to strengthen the role of the United States in the Middle East area and to harm relations between the Arab countries and friendly nations — including the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union — who support the just struggle of the Arab and the Palestinian peoples and the right of the Palestinian people to return to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

In his communique the Palestinian charge d'affaires said: We understand that Syria's decision to expel 'Arafat came as a prelude to a plan aimed at driving the fighters of the Palestinian revolution from the Al-Biqa' in order to pave the way for a de facto implementation of the American-Israeli-Lebanese agreement — an agreement that provides the key element of the American initiative in the form of the Reagan plan, a humiliating plan for the Arab nation, rejected by the Palestinian revolution, its leadership and people.

He said: This is the only way in which we understand the recent action by the Syrian Government. Any other allegations circulated by the media claiming that there were differences between Fatah and the other groups of the Palestinian revolution are untrue since there is no dispute at the level of the Fatah movement. But the imperialist intelligence organs, in coordination with some Arab intelligence organs, managed to recruit those [words indistinct] and who seek the baton of a marshal among some of these elements. This is a phenomenon which is not quite alien to the national liberation movements in the world.

He added: If the Syrian Government had good intentions toward the militant march of the Palestinian people — who have offered thousands of martyrs — then containing the undisciplined behavior of some elements would not have taken several hours.

However, the participation of the Syrian military intelligence and the fedayeen (?elements) and the Syrian Government's use of its potentials to support this phenonmenon for the purpose of casting doubt against the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat and striking at the Palestinian national unity — all this serves nothing but imperialist and Zionist interests. The Arab efforts should have been devoted to to exposing the hostile policy of the United States and its stooge Israel against our Arab peoples, the last of which was the war in Lebanon which claimed thousands of innocent martyrs from among Palestinian and Lebanese old people, children, and women. The Sabra and Shatila massacre came as a culmination to these fascist practices.

He said that instead of exploiting the remarkable status of the PLO and the support and admiration of world public opinion for the PLO as a result of the heroic steadfastness of the fighters of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese patriotic movement, and of the wisdom of the revolution's leadership during those critical times — prior to which the Palestinian revolution managed to obtain a unified Arab resolution at the Fes summit, a resolution approved by the PNC as a minimum to Arab concessions — the resolution and the victories have become the main targets of the United States. It has become imperative that this resolution and these victories be destroyed at any cost because they contradict the policy of imperialism and Zionism which have become used to imposing their initiatives and decisions by force in order to prevent the peoples from obtaining their right to self-determination. They want the peoples to be kept under their domination for the sake of safeguarding their interests which are shown in the way they despoil the people's resources and wealth and subjugate the peoples.

The United States has managed through its agents to paralyze the effectiveness of the progressive Arab parties and to keep them away from direct contact with the popular masses. We understand the secret of the strange Arab silence as this silence enables some Arab governments to renounce their commitments and tamper with the militant achievements of the Palestinian people and their sole and legitimate representative — the PLO.

However, he praised the attitude of some Arab states which are trying to bridge the gap in the dispute. He included the fraternal state of Kuwait in this and said: We do not deny its positive stands which have always supported the issue of our Palestinian people, their self-determination, and the establishment of their state. It raised its voice from the highest platforms of international forums demanding that world public opinion support our Palestinian people and that any step or measure which harms the leadership of the PLO under the command of Brother Yasir 'Arafat will be reflected negatively in the militant history of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab and international liberation movement.

The organization's charge d'affaires in Moscow called for an end to the policies of certain Arab states in collusion with the imperialist and Zionist policies that impede the march of the struggle of our Arab nation and that of the Palestinian revolution.

In his communique Ash-Sha'ir touched upon the fact that certain Arab and Western powers have circulated reports casting doubt on the attitude of the Soviet Union toward the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, saying: The position of the Soviet Union toward our Palestinian cause is a firm and noble position and the prestige of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian revolution, among the Soviet circles at both popular and government levels is evidence of the full Soviet support for our militant, all-round revolution under the leadership of the PLO, its legitimate and sole representative.

He added: The comrades in the Soviet Union have expressed their profound understanding for what is going on in the region currently, particularly after the talks held recently by the delegation of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, led by Brother Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee. The atmosphere of mutual understanding and the similiarity of points of views were a clear indication of the position of the Soviet Union on what is happening on the Arab scene and what is being hatched against the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Official on Syrian 'Conspiracy'

Amman Ad-Dustur in Arabic 26 Jun 83 pp 1, 27

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad has stated that the Syrian authorities' decision asking leader Yasir 'Arafat to leave Syria came as no surprise,and that the only surprise was its timing.

'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad added: Those who closely follow the Syrian regime's policies realize the extent of this regime's involvement in the conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution, which was disclosed in 1976. He said that after its failure at that stage, the Syrian regime continued to prepare for a suitable plan until the Zionist invasion of Lebanon took place in 1982, an invasion which was accepted in advance by the Syrian regime. This is corroborated by the head of the Syrian regime who told the recent Arab summit: "They informed me that this invasion will be limited to only 45 km".

This confirms that he had prior knowledge of this invasion, and that he had approved of it. He did not inform the resistance about it. This explains his silence during the invasion and the siege. He was wagering that this blow would wipe out the resistance or weaken it. The heroic steadfastness of our revolution, however, foiled all his calculations. Not despairing, he exploited the differences within the Fatah movement to carry out the scheme of containing the PLO and the Palestinian revolution, and to use it as a card with imperialism and Zionism in the forthcoming settlement negotiations.

The Palestinian official said: That's why the decision to keep Brother leader Abu 'Ammar away from his forces and people in Syria and Lebanon is only an attempt on his part to weaken the PLO, contain it, and control it.

'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad said: The legitimacy of Brother Abu 'Ammar's leadership is not based on a decision by Hafiz al-Asad. It stems from a decision by the Palestinian people and their militant vanguards. These will continue to rally around Palestinian legitimacy, represented in the leadership of the PLO under Brother Abu 'Ammar, and the other institutions.

On the moves to deal with the situation, the Palestinian official said: There will certainly be a Palestinian move on the Arab level to expose the conspiracy which is taking place against the PLO and the Palestinian revolution on the various levels. He added that 'Arafat will embark on moves on the Arab and international level, and that Amman will be among the Arab and other capitals to be visited by 'Arafat for exposing what is lying in wait for the Palestinian revolution, especially since the conspiracy to liquidate it, which began in Lebanon at the hands of the Zionist invaders, is now being carried out by Arab hands, represented by the Syrian and Libyan regimes.

'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad left Amman for Tunis yesterday. Salih Ra'fat, member of the central committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has also left Amman for Damascus. 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad was preparing to leave for Damascus to attend a PLO Executive Committee meeting when he was surprised by Syria's decision to expel Yasir 'Arafat.

Fatah Official on Damascus Offices, Mediation

JN251842 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Telephone dispatch from Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris —recorded]

[Excerpt] Abu 'Ammar as-Sa'd, the resident Fatah representative in Syria, in an interview with our radio at his office in Damascus today, denied reports which have been reiterated over the past 24 hours — part of these reports have been attributed to Palestinian sources — regarding measures that would lead to the closure or surrounding of the Fatah and PLO offices in Syria. He also dismissed reports about measures that would harm the commanders, fighters, and cadres of the Palestinian revolution, or would curb the Palestinian revolution's effectiveness. He said verbatim: While denying all these reports, we would like to point out that all the Fatah and PLO offices are open and are carrying out their activities without any problem. There is no intention to close them and all the offices' officials are operating normally.

When asked about intra-Palestinian differences and about the crisis between Yasir 'Arafat and Syria, Abu 'Ammar as-Sa'd said: Efforts are continuing to resolve all the internal problems affecting the Palestinian revolution. He added that other endeavors are being made to strengthen the militant, fateful relations between Syria and the Palestinian revolution — endeavors inspired by high national and pan-Arab responsibility.

The resident Fatah representative in Syria said that this phase is delicate because both the PLO and Syria are being subjected to all kinds of plotting aimed at their steadfastness. He asked all informational media to be considerate and ascertain the authenticity of reports prior to their publication. He conducted: We are confident that everyone is eager to quickly resolve the existing problems so that the PLO emerges from the current crisis stronger than before and to maintain the Syrian- Palestinian relations as strong and solid as always to fend off all dangers menacing our national and pan-Arab existence.

At a time when tension continues to prevail in Al-Biqa' there have been no reports on the occurrence of clashes. However, I must indicate here that the Syrian authorities have intensified measures and efforts to avert any Palestinian infighting between 'Arafat loyalists and His opponents. Palestinian leaders here have intensified their expanded meetings, and some of them have expressed a desire to meet with Syrian officials in a bid to contain and solve the crisis. Some of the Palestinian leaders expressed

optimism in this regard.

In the meantime, Arab mediations are continuing. After his meeting the day before yesterday with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, and his meeting yesterday with the Saudi foreign minister, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today received the Algerian foreign minister, who will remain in Damascus for further talks with his Syrian counterpart and the Palestinian leaders. The Algerian minister will meet again tomorrow with President al-Asad.

At his meeting with Nayif Hawatimah, the Algerian minister affirmed that Algeria will uphold its role in supporting the Palestinian revolution to solve its differences and safeguard its unity and independence.

Yesterday, President al-Asad handed the Saudi foreign minister a reply message for King Fahd. A spokesman for the Syrian president said that emphasis has been laid on continuing efforts to mend the rift and solve the existing differences in the Palestinian arena.

It was officially announced that Syria's decision on the expulsion of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is in no way connected with Syria's eagerness and work to avert infighting, mend the rift, and achieve accord among the Palestinians.

Budapest TV Interviews Sa'id Musa, Salah Khalaf

LD262032 Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 2 Jun 83

[From the "This Week" program: Interview with deputy chief of staff of Palestinian Armed Forces Sa'id Musa Muragha, using the nom de guerre Abu Musa; and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, using the nom de guerre Abu Iyad; to Alajos Chrudinak and Karoly Varszegi — date and place not given; answers in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Chrudinak] In the Al-Biqa' valley in Lebanon, two wings of the Fatah Palestinian Liberation Organization are facing each other. There were even armed clashes recently between them. Rebellious Fatah forces have occupied several (?positions). The leader of the rebels is Colonel Abu Musa, deputy chief of staff of the Palestinian Armed Forces.

[Chrudinak] It is being said of your movement that it is demanding various reforms within the Fatah organization. What is the aim of these reforms?

[Abu Musa] We want the leadership to take an unequivocal stand on political questions; not to turn its stances to its own unfair advantage, and not to obfuscate political questions. For example, here is the Reagan plan which denies the Palestinian state, does not recognize the PLO, and considers Jerusalem as part of Israel. It accepts the situation as it has developed and the border changes. In connection with all this we have to form a clear stance. We must not play with words so that the U.S. thinks that maybe we shall accept this plan.

[Chrudinak] Some people say that the dispute broke out within Fatah when 'Arafat allegedly gave instructions to you to leave the Al-Biqa' valley with your troops. Is this true?

[Abu Musa] Yes, but Yasir 'Arafat did not announce this officially. On the other hand, the Palestinian forces in Lebanon concluded from this unexpected measure that soon the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces from Lebanon will begin.

[Chrudinak] You have been the chief of military operations of the PLO —the deputy chief of staff — but 'Arafat dismissed you. I have heard that (?this was an emergency measure). How did all this come about?

[Abu Musa] In my opinion, Yasir 'Arafat, according to the statutes, has no right — has no authority to relive high-ranking officers of their posts. This is the authority of the Fatah Command. I personally was not informed that I had been relieved. Now, on the basis of Palestinian national unity within the PLO, I am fighting for the reform of the movement. I am against a split and internal feuds within the Palestinian movement. I am advocating democratic dialogue. In my opinion, every question must be settled within the supreme body of Fatah. The Central Committee of Fatah is the forum in which we can solve these problems.

[Chrudinak] Some people regard your rebel movement as the left wing of the Fatah organization. Fatah is the meeting point of the most varied political trends. It has a right and left tendency. In Palestinian circles there are many who support your reform demands, your endeavors aimed at the renewal of the organization, but they accuse you of demanding one-half of the leading posts in Fatah for your rebel movement.

[Abu Musa] This is not true. We demand a clear political stance. We demand the reform of those political organizations which the present leadership has suppressed. We demand collective leadership. At the same time we demand a change in the attitude and mode of life of the leaders because in the movement there can be seen many kinds of anti-revolutionary attitudes too.

[Chrudinak] Some people say that Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyans and the Syrians are encouraging you. What is your opinion on this?

[Abu Musa] They are friends and everybody knows well our fighting political past. Everybody knows that we object to being the servants of Arab systems. We have fought already against several such Arab armies which wanted to end the independence of the Palestinians. [sentence indistinct] We have close ties with certain Arab countries with whose policy we agree. We do not withdraw from those who profess views identical with ours. But this does not mean dependence but community. I can say the same about those international forces whose stances we accept.

[Chrudinak] I understand. But how can one solve this conflict since you are not willing to negotiate with 'Arafat and his side. You, for example, did not go to the meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. So what is the solution?

[Abu Musa] The solution would be for 'Arafat to agree to convene

the Fatah Central Committee, the opinion of which everybody accepts, and which would then be the leader of the movement.

[Chrudinak] The main thrust of Fatah's attack is directed against 'Arafat. [words indistinct]

[Abu Musa] We are fighting not against personalities but against a policy. This policy is shaped by men, of course. We are supporting him who wants to make changes. We support a policy which is committed to our national cause, which is not for appeasement, and which does not make unprincipled concessions. We are supporting the leader who is following this sort of policy.

[Chrudinak] Let us see what is the opinion of the other side in the dispute. At a base in Lebanon of 'Arafats followers we met Abu Iyad, head of the Palestinian security service, Yasir 'Arafat's deputy. Since the attack of the rebels, the forces faithful to 'Arafat have recently strengthened their positions. Abu Iyad received us Wednesday, a few hours before making an unexpected lightning visit to Moscow. Abu Iyad went on to (?Cuba) at the end of the week.

What is your opinion of this movement, of the stance of Abu Musa's rebel group? How could this crisis be overcome?

[Abu Iyad] If we were acting according to the methods of any party, political organization, or revolution, then we should have long ago shot the rebels to pieces with artillery. This is what we should have done. But we are handling the matter according to our own principles and we are resorting to the method of democratic debate, the more so as the rebels are not simple officers. There are two Central Committee members and several members of the Revolutionary Council among them. But what is even more important is that we highly esteem most of them and, in my opinion, their demand for reform is justified.

[Chrudinak] Do you agree with them?

[Abu Iyad] I agree with their demands but I condemn their methods. These methods are contrary to every evolved custom and practice, especially as the timing of the revolt is conspicuous. We are now mobilizing against the Lebanese-Israeli agreement but how will people believe that we really want to fight when the rebels are calling us names and are (?heaping upon us) accusations. The dispute gives the Western press and Western propaganda an opportunity to write about us as they please. Mainly they write to strike a blow at Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian movement.

The revolt broke out at the inspiration of outside forces. I can say that it was after Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met Yasir 'Arafat, when talks with Jordan were completely broken off and the Lebanese-Israeli agreement was signed, and at a time when the Soviet Union is supporting our cause with increasing determination. With this I do not want to say, of course, that previously it did not support us suitably. This support indeed has been raised to a strategic level. If the revolt lasts a few more weeks, (?this is no disaster.) We have asked the rebels to negotiate but they have rejected it. So what do they want? [words indistinct]

PLO Dissident Groups Assess Fatah Situation

Sa'id Musa Interviewed

JN262120 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1855 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Interview with Fatah dissident Colonel Sa'id Musa — identified by his nom de guerre Abu Musa — by an unidentified Syrian televison correspondent on 25 June 1983 — place not given; videotaped]

[Text] [Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, since the middle of last month there have been developments within the Fatah movement. These happened after the declaration of your political stand on some matters within the Fatah movement. Could you give us an idea of the developments which took place and the dimensions of these developments?

[Sa'id Musa] What are the causes and motives for the situation in which we now find ourselves? This situation stems from our concept of the reasons for the Lebanon war. The Lebanon war had two aims. The first aim was to strike at the fighting tool of the Palestinian revolution to subjugate Palestinian decision-making to the U.S. program. The second aim was to oust fighting Syria from Lebanon, subjugating it to the U.S. program. However, this war failed from the military point of view in implementing its tasks. Therefore, there was a need for a political plot to complete what the Israeli war-machine failed to do or to complete the U.S.- imperialist scheme in the region. As soon as we left Beirut, several U.S.imperialist schemes were submitted, particularly to the PLO. Among these schemes was Reagan's plan, which we consider a denial of the Palestine question and of the Palestinian people. This was followed by the plan for confederation with the Jordanian regime. We considered both plans harmful and even destructive of the Palestine question. Therefore, we held a continuous dialogue on these issues for a whole year within the frameworks [PLO institutions]. Unfortunately, we did not reach any decisive, clear stands on these issues.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, does this mean that a democratic dialogue was held in this regard within the Fatah Movement?

[Musa] Yes, there was dialogue within the framework of the [Fatah] Revolutionary Council in more than one session throughout last year However, the Fatah leadership, Brother Yair 'Arafat, and the Central Committee did not consider the opinion of the overwhelming majority, which opposes this plan, the Reagan plan, and also the confederation plan. Therefore, we found out that, if political matters are given free reign, this leadership takes large strides, as was the case during the recent visit to Jordan when the [PLO] Executive Committee visited Amman and held discussions with the Jordanian regime on finding a formula for a confederal union before the establishment of a Palestinian state. This meant denying the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which we see as the symbol for the continuation of struggle against this Zionist enemy. Therefore, when we failed in the democratic dialogue within the

frameworks, we deemed it our duty to loudly declare from this land, the land of Lebanon, that we disagree with the political line of this leadership. We have always called for a democratic dialogue and for a Fatah congress to be the judge between us, as this congress represents the broad base of Fatah fighters. However, the Fatah leadership, instead of listening to the voice of conscience, justice, and rights, began to respond in an undemocratic manner. It mobilized many fighters under the pretext that we promote dissidence. We are not secessionists, but unionists. We are very concerned about the unity of the Fatah Movement and the PLO.

Instead of resorting to dialogue they opened fire on us in more than one position. Instead of resorting to our frameworks, like the congress, 'Arafat began to tour Arab and foreign countries in order to turn others against this national stand within the Fatah movement. However, all these futile attempts failed to make any one of us fall under the pressure of political intimidation. We did so for the sake of a clear, national stand in the Palestinian arena to confront the imperialist-Zionist scheme.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, are there any direct causes? Of course, you have spoken about many causes which made you adopt this political stand, but are there also incidents or specific points which made you adopt this stand?

[Musa] Actually, what made us set this date was Abu 'Ammar's last visit to Amman, where a document for unity between the Palestinian people and the Jordan regime was written. Had this document of joint action been signed, we would have abandoned the Palestine question. The signing of the document would have meant abandoning the Palestinian stand which we have always insisted on; namely, independent Palestinian decisionmaking. When a joint committee is formed of the Jordanian regime and the PLO, that is, the Palestinians, this means the first step toward the abandonment of independent Palestinian decisionmaking. This document has established that the dialogue which would have taken place between this [joint Palestinian-Jordanian] delegation and the United States and Israel would be on the basis of the Reagan plan. The Reagan plan denies the existence of the Palestinian state, says no to the PLO, and supports the continued existence of the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, on the whole, this plan conflicts with the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian revolution, which has made great sacrifices and experienced much suffering over the past 18 years. When we discovered that matters were becoming very serious, we decided to stop this dreadful political decline which was destructive to the Palestine question.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, before this delegation's departure for Amman and the writing of this document, were there no attempts at dialogue within the Fatah leadership to convince them of the futility of their departure for Amman?

[Musa] There were many dialogues. The last was in the Revolutionary Council, which met in January [1983] in Aden. During that meeting, we presented all our thoughts as a nationalist current in the Fatah movement conflicting with the political line taken by the PLO and the Fatah leadership in particular. Unfortunately, however, we have now reached a state which can be described by the following: Say what you want, and I will do what I want. Therefore, we decided to come here, to the land of struggle, and raise our voices high against this erroneous political line.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, of course the Fatah leadership has reacted to the political stand you have announced. I wonder if you could tell us about this reaction as specifically as possible.

[Musa] Among the reactions to this stand, as I said a short while ago, instead of resorting to dialogue, they began to turn people against us inside and outside the movement. Instead of resorting to democratic dialogue, they began to resort to arms. This conflicts with the spirit of democracy and fraternity inside the movement. Barely 2 weeks after the announcement of our position, they gathered their forces in the Ba'labakk region and began shooting at our positions. We avoided returning the fire from the beginning, until certain [Lebanese] nationalist forces and the Syrian forces there intervened and prevented them from firing on our positions. We did not return the fire to avoid any losses among the forces of the Palestinian revolution. This is because we consider the fighter, whether here or there, as belonging to the same movement and body. During the last 2 days, they also tried to attack our forces in the As-Suwayri region. They gathered forces, began to advance, and opened fire from mortars and all types of weapons. For the sake of truth and history, I would like to record that this was a nationalist and honorable stand [by the Syrians]. They exposed their forces to fire between the two sides to prevent the fighting. On the other hand, the other side was not deterred and kept firing. This prompted our Syrian brothers to move their forces slightly away from the two sides to avoid possible losses in equipment and personnel. This was the real and actual position as seen by the fighters from our side and the other side. Even the civilians in the area saw this noble stand by our Syrian brothers, who have always been concerned to avoid any fighting or sedition in the region, especially since they have forces there and, therefore, are determined to maintain calm and stability for all in the region so that all sides perform their duties against the main enemy; namely, Israel.

These are issues which took place in recent days. In fact, Yasir 'Arafat was quoted as saying that the Syrian forces had participated or attacked one of the sides. This is definitely untrue and baseless. I would like to say that, from the beginning, Yasir 'Arafat has not been able to confront us politically or militarily. He wanted to achieve a decisive military settlement, but he did not possess a tool for such an action because all the parties in the Palestinian revolution believe in our move. Therefore, they are not prepared to carry out illegal and nonrevolutionary orders. At the organizational level, 'Arafat was also unable to confront us because he had deviated from the political program and the system. Therefore, he will not confront us democratically and within the frameworks. We believed that he would hold others responsible for his avoidance of us within the frameworks. We also feared that he would hold the Syrian brothers responsible for what is happening in Lebanon. This has a lot of background. When we were in Beirut and decided to leave Lebanon for Syria, 'Arafat wanted to leave for Tunisia. We viewed the evacaution as a political decision, because to go elsewhere than Syria is a political postion. Since that day, he has been harboring something against that good country.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, some Palestinian and Arab sides and some Arab and foreign media tried to involve Syria in the differences, which took place within the Fatah movement. First, you talked about the Syrian role in Lebanon, in the Beirut siege, and in the military developments. I would like to ask you: How do you explain these attempts to involve Syria at a time when Syria is being exposed to Israeli military threats and to Arab and international political pressures? How do you explain these attempts on both the Arab and international levels?

[Musa] We believe that the U.S. program in the region will not be able to survive as long as Syria adopts its current principled nationalist position against that program. We view Syria as the side which completes, for example, the electrical circuit. While Jordan has surrendered, Egypt has signed the agreement of capitulation, and Lebanon has also signed the agreement of humiliation, Syria has remained the symbol. As long as Syria adopts such a stance, the program will not succeed. Therefore, Syria is being exposed to Arab and international onslaughts, because Syria's steadfastness and confrontation of the conspiracy will undermine all the offered plans, including the U.S. plans. Syria said no to the Reagan initiative. We appreciate this. Syria remains in Lebanon and in the Al-Biqa' toconfront the humiliating agreement signed between the Lebanese authority and Israel. The nationalist forces also appreciate this. In fact, that position will not satisfy the United States and the Arab reactionaries. Therefore, we view Syria's steadfastness in Lebanon, its refusal to submit to the U.S. plans and threats, and its opposition to the Reagan initiative which denies the Palestine question and the Palestinian people, and its rejection of confederation with the Jordanian regime which will enable it to open a dialogue with Israel as a symbol for steadfastness and confrontation of the U.S. plan. Hence, Arab and international onslaughts against Syria will be great.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, according to Yasir 'Arafat, when he speaks he speaks for Fatah legitimacy. This means that the Fatah leadership may announce political, military, or organizational stands, various stands. In your opinion, do you have any idea what Yasir 'Arafat may announce about these stands?

[Musa] We believe that he may poosibly adopt organizational decisions. This would mean dismissing certain cadres and leaders who are at the head of this state of affairs. However, we have a basic system whose rules stipulate that dismissial must be according to certain principles. This means that the dismissal of any cadre or member of the movement must be based on a charge. The charge is determined by an investigation committee and a conviction would ensue. If the conviction is confirmed, then dismissal follows. Otherwise, any attempt at dismissal without resorting to these methods is illegal.

[Reporter] Yes. However, does this necessitate convening a general congress of the Fatah movement?

[Musa] This is what we have been calling for from the first day of our movement and uprising. We say that the congress is the one that should judge the principal issues that touch on the essence of the national issue. The Palestinian issue cannot be acted upon unilaterally by any person other than the congress. Dealing with Israel, according to the political program approved by the congress, is prohibited and crosses the red line. The congress is the one that determines if it is useful to contact the Zionist forces, not any other person or framework. Therefore, we must return to the congress, which specifies the correct course and settles and answers all the questions which we submitted in the current state of affairs. Thus, we say that if Brother Yasir 'Arafat wants to settle this issue, then we must all return to the congress, as we have advocated. Otherwise, any decision that Yasir 'Arafat may adopt is void and illegal because no one can dismiss any member of this movement unless a charge is made, investigation committee formed, and a conviction confirmed.

We believe that there are voices that say that Brother Yasir 'Arafat may convene a national council. However, we believe that if he is really concerned with the national unity of the Fatah movement and of the PLO framework he will not call for such a council because the issue is not pertinent to the PLO but is essentially a Fatah issue. It must then be solved within the Fatah movement. If Yasir 'Arafat raises the dispute at the national council, then that means he wants to carry the dispute to the Palestinian arena, just as he is trying to carry it to the Arab arena. At such a moment the PLO will be exposed to division and danger. We hope that we will not reach the stage of division or of dealing a blow to the PLO, because we see the PLO within this framework as a symbol of unity and continued struggle against the Zionist enemy.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, you mentioned that you were unionists and concerned with the unity of the Fatah movement. Do you believe that healing this rift in the Fatah movement will be dealt with shortly and that things will return to normal?

[Musa] We will continuously strive and do our utmost to maintain the unity of the Fatah movement. We will resist any attempt to thrust us toward dismemberment. We say that the political ideas and position which we are advocating express the opinion of the majority in Fatah, its forces, its organization, and its institutions. What we are advocating is an expression of the opinion of the entire base. Therefore, we are saying that the broad base supports reform, change, and a clear political stand. Therefore, we say that if the majority supports this clear political line that calls for reform, then the majority will be able to prevent the minority from causing division. The minority opposes this national stand, this political stand. Thus, any deviation or lack of commitment to our position means the deviation of individuals, not factions or a division in the Fatah Movement. Therefore, we are satisfied that, as long as the broad base supports this political stand which we are adopting and announcing, then there is no scope for division. However, there is scope for deviation by some people who do not wish to be committed to this position. This means that they have deviated from unanimity. This represents an individual deviation rather than a division.

[Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, you said that the overwhelming majority support your stands. Do you mean by the overwhelming majority the Palestinian masses, or the Palestinian fighting cadres?

[Musa] Sir, we are saying the overwhelming majority in the Fatah movement in particular. We are also supported in this stand by the great majority inside the Palestinian organizations,

including fighters, cadres, and leaderships. Furthermore, the Palestinian people have to stand by their cause in the end. The Palestinian people do not want to deliver Palestine once again to King Husayn. The Palestinian people are for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is what we are advocating. The Palestinian people are against the Reagan plan, because the Reagan plan says no to the PLO, and no to the Palestinian state. Therefore, the broad base, whether inside the Palestinian revolution or among the Palestinian masses, wants a homeland and a state. As for the Reagan plan, it is being adopted or considered now [tatabannah aw tata'amil ma'ah al-'ann] by the PLO. In the PNC in Algiers, the PLO decided to reject the Reagan plan as a basis for a solution. This means it is not rejected politically, but only as a basis. In other words, it is acceptable as a plan. But we say that the correct stand is to say that the Reagan plan is rejected in its entirety. It is not just rejected as a basis, which would mean that it is acceptable as one of the plans. The broad base stands for correction, for the protection of the Palestine question, and for continuing the struggle against the Zionist enemy until we achieve our full rights.

(Reporter] Brother Abu Musa, I would like to ask a final question. How optimistic are you that these developments will be positive in the future?

[Musa] Sir, we are as optimistic as revolutionaries can be. The revolutionary is always optimistic. Optimism is not based on abstracts, but on facts, feelings, and practices. We see how the fighting forces in the Lebanese arena are interacting with us. The forces that are calling from outside for the necessity of the return [to the struggle] — as we are also calling for their return to the struggle — are interacting with the stand we are advocating; with reform, correction, commitment to the political program, to the National Charter, and to nonrelinquishment of the Palestinian people's national rights. This optimism is based on this wider perspective. We are certain of the support of all the nationalist and progressive forces, whether in the Arab region or in the world, for the Palestinian revolution that fights, is committed to the Palestine question and does not relinquish the rights of the Palestinian people. The will of the revolutionaries, the will of the commitment to armed struggle until liberation, is bound to triumph.

[Reporter] Thank you, brother Abu Musa, for this interview. Once again, we express the hope that matters will develop positively in the interest of the Palestinian revolution in general.

[Musa] God willing.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Musa] Thank you.

Ahmad Jibril Discusses Rift

JN242103 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1803 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Interview with PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril by Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris, carried in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program — date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Fairs] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC: Much has recently been said about your front's role in what is happening within the Fatah Movement. What is the truth and what is your role in what is happening?

[Jibril] In fact, we in the PFLP-GC do not deny that we have been in disagreement with 'Arafat's leadership for a long time. We specifically differ with it on three basic matters. We differ with 'Arafat's leadership on political stands and the concept of Palestinian national unity, because 'Arafat understands national unity as full hegemony over the Palestinian arena and the executive structure, and as unilateral decisions. We also differ with 'Arafat about his behavioral deviations, which he fed and encouraged inside the revolution's leaderships and cadres, leading to the creation of several leaderships that are rejected by our Palestinian and Lebanese people. By such behavior, 'Arafat created organs with which he replaced the real strugglers and revolutionaries, terrorized the revolutionaries, and undertook several repressive actions, not only against the resistance factions but also against the revolutionary trends within Fatah. [as heard]

In fact, our differences with 'Arafat's leadership increased when he agreed for the first time at the Fes summit to tear up the PLO Charter and recognize the Zionist enemy; when he opened dialogue with the Egyptian regime, which is committed to the Camp David accords; when he began to agree with King Husayn on a way to take part in bargaining on the basis of Reagan's plan; and when he and some of his aides began to meet with the Zionists, contrary to the PNC resolutions and the PLO Charter.

'Arafat went beyond the red lines in many cases, giving no thought to the PLO National Charter and the PNC resolutions, and adopting unilateral decisions. He did so without even consulting his comrades in the Fatah movement. Therefore, we say that we in the PFLP-GC are in disagreement with 'Arafat and his line, behavior, and leadership of the revolution.

[Fairs] What was your attitude when the rebellion within the Fatah movement began?

[Jibril] After the Fatah revolutionary comrades revolted and declared the aims of their uprising — as summed up in rectifying the revolution's political line and its ethical and behavioral course — we found that their aims were identical to the aims for which we have struggled throughout past years. We declared our support for them on grounds of democratic dialogue and for the attainment of these aims on grounds of the indivisibility of the Fatah organization.

However, regrettably, 'Arafat and his comrades, who did not comprehend many facts during past years, did not comprehend the new situation within Fatah. In fact, we were strongly determined to attain our aims — either we or the revolutionaries in Fatah and the Palestinian arena — through democratic dialogue. However, we were regrettably surprised at 'Arafat's decision to resort to arms in order to solve these differences. We are not making this up. His official spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, told your radio that the rebellion is about to end, and that 'Arafat is leading the fighting against the rebels himself.

Regrettably, 'Arafat has, since the beginning of the uprising, been trying to deal with Fatah's internal crisis from abroad. He tried through various methods to convince those who are far from the battlefields that this uprising was being instigated by outside quarters. Once he accused Libya and on another occasion accused Syria. He always accuses us in the PFLP-GC of being responsible for this uprising. 'Arafat forgets that these rebelling Fatah revolutionary cadres and these brave fighters have, from the past years' bitter experiences, attained revolutionary maturity and are no longer in need of anyone's trusteeship.

[Fairs] Brother Ahmad Jibril: Have you in one way or another participated in the fighting?

[Jibril] I would like to say that since the beginning of the uprising, we in the PFLP-GC have not taken part in any military actions against 'Arafat's leadership and wing despite repeated and multifaceted propaganda provocations as well as military provocations. In fact, we have not been asked to participate or help in such actions, except for lending our political support for this uprising since — because of the size of the Fatah uprising — it does not need our participation. 'Arafat and his leadership tried to provoke us militarily several times. His repressive organs stopped one of our vehicles in Al-Biqa' after his attempt to strike at the uprising in the September Martyrs' Battalion in the Shtawrah area. His groups stopped four of our comrades in a vehicle. They were ordered to leave the car and stand by a wall where they were shot to death, thus disregarding all ethical values, ideals, and chivalry. It was only then that one of our units in the Al-Biqa' valley movedspontaneously in reaction to this ugly massacre and arrested more than 50 of 'Arafat's elements, including some of his leaders.

Our comrades behaved honorably and with chivalry and did not resort to retaliation and murder. They only detained them until today, and we asked for an investigative committee in order to learn the truth. However, I regrettable say that 'Arafat rejected this.

[Faris] What about the Libyans? Have they participated or helped you?

[Jibril] What 'Arafat, Khalil al-Wazir, and Abu Iyad said about the presence of Libyan forces and tanks with us is untrue. We defy them to prove that. We are also ready to receive journalists at any time in order to let them tour our combat bases and see for themselves. They will certainly not find Libyan forces or tanks. Theywill find the front's tanks manned by the front's crews. 'Arafat and others in the organizations know that we had these tanks even before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The enemy reported the presence of these tanks several times. The Libyan forces are no less than 20 km from the scene of clashes. I divulge no secrets when I say that they are stationed in Dahr al-Baydar and Hammana. They follow the Syrian operations room in everything. We do not have any influence on them and they do not move even 1 meter except upon the orders of the Syrian operations room.

[Faris] What do you think of the way 'Arafat is dealing with what is taking place within Fatah?

[Jibril] I would like to repeat that 'Arafat is trying to escape abroad. Once he said that the rebels were 30, then 50, 100, and 150 in number. The largest number he gave was 200. However, the Arab news media visited the rebels' bases and saw that they number hundreds not dozens, as 'Arafat said.

[Faris] How do you think 'Arafat should deal with this.

[Jibril] I advise 'Arafat to for once see matters in their true perspective, to not [word indistinct] right or left in agitation, and to deal with the Fatah issue audaciously and bravely, even if this requires him to resign in the best interests of the cause and of the continuation of the revolution. As individuals we will not last forever, but the revolution remains. I advise 'Arafat and his comrades not to run out on Fatah, and I repeat that we absolutely reject any resort to arms because arms are a double-edged weapon. 'Arafat should think twice before he resorts to arms.

PFLP, DFLP Leaders Comment on Rebels' Demands

JN271238 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Beirut *As-Safir* has published statements by PFLP Political Bureau member Bassam Abu Sharif, in which he revealed that the PLO Executive Committee and other Palestinian factions leaders will meet within the next few days to adopt the necessary measures aimed at preserving the unity of the PLO and its various bodies and at confronting every attempt to torpedo the PLO independence. He added that the rebels have turned down the mediation efforts exerted by the PFLP the Democratic Front for the liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and the PNC speaker.

For his part, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department and DFLP Political Bureau member, said that the rebels' demands are fair, but they failed to benefit from the sympathy that was demonstrated in the early stages of dissension, and displayed drastic extremism. He affirmed that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] accepted to back down on his appointment of some military cadres over whom the dispute was ignited, and agreed to reorganize the forces of As-'Asifah, the Fatah's military wing. But, 'Abd Rabbuh added, the Abu Musa group rejected these concessions and is still demanding to be on equal footing with 'Arafat loyalists. He affirmed that the rebels' stand cannot be defended because it is pushing Fatah toward fragmentation.

The statements of Abu Sharif and 'Abd Rabbuh are the first official reactions by the PFLP and DFLP leaders following the expulsion of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] from Syria.

PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash yesterday met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

PFLP, DFLP Form Joint Military, Political Command

LD261207 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jun (KUNA) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced here today the formation of a joint

military and political command to realize unity between them.

A statement issued by the two fronts says: "This step was taken following a plenary meeting held here yesterday between the Popular Front Political Bureau chaired by Dr George Habash and the Democratic Front Political Bureau chaired by Nayif Hawatimah."

It adds that the two fronts' joint political and military command will be responsible "for the front's political affairs and stances and for the armed forces belonging to them, within the framework of unifying and strengthening relations between them and of unifying ranks."

The statement declares that "other uniting steps will be adopted concerning the issues of popular, trade unionist and social relations" between the two fronts.

— The announcement of this step taken by the Popular Front and the Democratic Front — which split off from the former in 1969 under the leadership of Hawatimah — comes at a time when the largest Palestinian fighting faction — the Fatah movement — is witnessing a mutiny against the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which is threatening to destroy the movement's unity.

The fronts' statement says that their step "does not form an axis against anyone but it is a unifying act aimed at contributing to the unity of the liberation organization and its legitimate organizations."

It adds that this step was "motivated by the close proximity of the two fronts' stances toward Palestinian national and political issues and by their identical ideological basis for action."

The two fronts announced that by this action they are striving "to bolster and make a success of the decisions of the Palestine National Council, the parliament in exile, and the creation of a unified Palestinian national army."

They expressed their confidence that "the Palestinian masses will welcome this step because it helps strengthen the Palestinian revolution forces, the Palestinian people's struggle and the unity of their ranks within the framework of its sole legitimate representative — the liberation organization."

PFLP Spokesman Assesses Fatah Split

GF261510 Kuwait Ar-Ra'y Al-'Amm in Arabic 25 Jun 83 PP 1, 31

[Text] PFLP spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif expects this summer to be very hot for the political contacts and pressures which will be imposed on Syria and the PLO for the purpose of keeping the door open with Washington. At the same time, he expressed his belief that the operations of the Lebanese resistance against Israel will be escalated to suit the political move which rejects the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Abu Sharif spoke about these matters during a dialogue with him in Damascus on the latest developments of the Palestinian situation and the role of the popular front regarding what is happening inside Fatah movement.

He said in this regard: After 18 years of revolution there should be some impurities and if the revolution wants to continue it has to get rid of these impurities. He stressed the necessity of making reforms inside the PLO in implementation of the decision adopted in 1974 which calls for an objective organization to lead the revolution to Palestinian unity. He supported self-criticism directed against the Palestinian revolution which is now witnessing a retreat and is exposed to dangers.

He said that what the opponents demand was necessary before the Lebanese war and has become an urgent necessity since the war. He said: Constructive self-criticism does not hurt anyone. Therefore we support the reforms and the eradication of impurities so that Fatah movement can stand on solid ground as the biggest body of the organization [PLO]. He went on, saying: We insist on the necessity of making reforms and at the same time reject any split as well as any resorting to weapons and fighting against brothers. We also believe that any insult to the PLO is an insult to the Palestinian people.

Answering a question on the role of the Popular Front in the events in Fatah, he said: We met with the two disputing sides and there has been an attempt to achieve Fatah unity. It is necessary to make some reforms. When the secretary general of the front, Dr George Habash, met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid there were specific proposals by the Central Committee to achieve these reforms. He said that the front will say anything about the Fatah events and will reveal the names of those responsible for them in front of the people. He affirmed the PLO's rejection of any Arab interference even if this interference has good intentions because the current problems should be solved within Fatah. He affirmed that the Popular Front has been for a long time calling for and supporting the demands of the opponents because we are partners in the end and we have to agree on the revolution.

Answering a question on whether or not what happened has favored the Palestinian revolution, he said: Of course, it is has helped the revolution although we reject fighting between brothers. We still insist on the necessity that reform should be made in a democratic way because if what is happening now gets worse, more negative effects will emerge. this means that there is a mistake somewhere which should be realized because fighting inside the movement is a destructive matter. What is happening now will be more dangerous when the enemies exploit it against us. Therefore, the Palestinian parties should move to settle this matter.

He said: We met with Abu Salih and with the brothers in Fatah and the Central Committee for the purpose of reaching a common basis for Fatah unity in a democratic manner. He said: It is our concern and duty to achive all the hopes of our people at present and to maintain the organization's independence.

Mr Bassam Abu Sharif delcared that the popular front will say anything about Fatah events at the right time and will reveal those responsible for them. He attributed the reasons of the

information uproar to a number of elements which are the accumulation of mistakes and Beirut events. He referred to the identity of the Popular Front's program and Abu Iyad's program and his reform proposals and said that what happened is not connected with the current developments but is a result of an accumulation of things.

Bassam Abu Sharif denied that the work has begun for the unification of the Popular Front led by George Habash and the Democratic Front led by Nayif Hawatmah, but he said: Coordination between us is good, and it is our concern to achieve the unity of the Palestinian organizations.

Bassam Abu Sharif described the Lebanese-Israeli agreement as being more dangerous than the Camp David accords. He said: We have to support the national Lebanese forces because we believe that these forces together with all the national Arab forces still have a chance. He also affirmed that there is an opportunity to crush the enemy. He said that the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian position has made the agreement impossible to implement. He said that the Soviets are an umbrella for this position.

Abu Shari expected this summer to be hot with regard to political pressures on the PLO and Syria in order to keep the door open with the United States. He said: In all circumstances we cannot rule out the possibility of a confrontation with Israel and the escalation of patriotic operations in Lebanon. He reiterated his call for supporting the national Lebanese forces. He said that it is natural that 100,000 Palestinians under occupation should support the lebanese resistance. Abu Sharif affirmed that Syria's position toward the agreement is constant and is connected with its national interest. He said that in all circumstances Syria will not change its position toward the agreement and will never accept it. He said that the alternative of the agreement is a military settlement and that the way is open for the national Lebanese forces. The military operations now being carried out in Lebanon against the Zionist enemy inflict serious losses among the Israeli troops and this hurts Begin and presents him with difficult problems.

Saudi Arabia To Contact Arabs on PLO Discord

JN261821 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Telephone dispatch from At-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent 'Abdallah ash-Shihri on 26 June — recorded]

[Text] In the next 24 hours there will be intensive diplomatic and political Saudi contacts with the influential Arab capitals with the aim of containing the repercussions of Palestinian- Syrian relations after Syria's decision to expel Yasir 'Arafat from its territory. The Arab countries, particularly the Gulf states, consider Syria's decision to be a new position added to Syria's previous stands, the most prominent of which were Syriansupport for Iran in the war against Iraq, its abandonment of the Palestinian resistance during the siege of Beirut, and its refusal to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, thus giving the chance for other forces to stay in Lebanon.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in At-Ta'if shortly for talks with King Fahd on the latest developments. 'Arafat will als brief the king on all details and stages of the Palestinian-Syrian differences. It is worth mentioning that earlier, the Saudi monarch had a telephone conversation with 'Arafat upon the latter's arrival in Tunis from Damascus. In this conversation the king stressed Saudi Arabia's desire to maintain the independence and unity of the Palestinian decision, away from any Arab influence or any attempts to contain the PLO for aims incompatible with the supreme Arab interests.

During the past 2 days, Rafiq an-Natshah, the Fatah [as heard] organization's representative in Riyadh, explained to Saudi officials the details and dimensions of the differences with Damascus. Informed sources here did not rule out a joint Saudi-Gulf stand aimed at increasing support for the Palestinian position and the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship. They also did not rule out exerting efforts to prevent any attempt to create a new unqualified Palestinian leadership that is unacceptable to the Arab nation and incapable of assuming responsibility. A Saudi official told me today that 'Arafat is still and will remain the sole Palestinian leader who enjoys the confidence of sincere Arab leaders.

'Arafat Addresses Prague World Peace Meeting

LD261515 Prague Domestic Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1620 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at 25 June session of the World Assembly for Peace and against Nuclear War in Prague — recorded in Arabic with superimposed Czech translation]

[Text] Madam Chairwoman, esteemed comrades, esteemed friends:

The holding of your assembly under the slogan "For Peace and Life" is of enormous significance since this assembly is taking place under historic conditions — in special circumstances when world peace is being subjected to danger from the growing aggression and expansion of American imperialism. The fate of all mankind today is being subjected to a real test as a result of the insane plans of American imperialism, which is striving to escalate further the worldwide arms race and the production of new weapons of mass destruction. It is striving to deploy missiles and nuclear bases in various parts of the world. Indeed, the dreams of hegemony and of the possibility of altering the correlation of forces in the world are leading imperialism once again to attempt to achieve domination over sensitive (?and vital) areas of the world.

Today we are witnessing how foreign imperialist wars are again being unleashed by America. We see this in Honduras, El Salvador, in the attacks against Nicaragua, and we see it in Lebanon with the dispatch of American military units, regardless of what labels these actions have, and irrespective of the pretexts used to justify the sending of such units. We daily hear dangerous threats issued by the American Administration against Cuba, Nicaragua, the Palestinian people, Lebanon, and in particular all nations in Central and Latin America. [applause]

Among the tension flashpoints created and fomented by American imperialism in various parts of the world, the Middle East area emerges as one of the most prominent and significant. It poses a great threat to world peace as a result of the Israeli aggression against the Arab people of Palestine which has continued for more than 35 years with direct American support, and indeed, with the joint participation of the United States in that aggression against the Palestinian people and against Lebanon and against other Arab countries in the area.

On such occasions in the past year, the PLO, the Lebanese patriotic forces, and both the Palestinian and Lebanese nations have confronted the open war of genocide unleashed against them by the Israeli aggressors and American imperialists. The Israeli Government, which is headed by that terrorist and war criminal, Menahem Begin, has declared its intention to annihilate the PLO and the Palestinian people. And the American Administration, headed by President Reagan, has given all its support and aid to enable Begin and his war minister, Sharon, who was at that time the minister of war, to carry out their openly declared objectives using the Israeli armed forces equipped with the most advanced U.S. weapons of destruction.

The result of this aggressive war — in which more than 180,000 fully equipped Israeli troops took part, along with the Israeli air force and navy, using all kinds of modern American weapons, including weapons that are prohibited in international law — was that they were used for the first time in Lebanon, where they were used also against our children and against Lebanese and Palestinian children [sentence as heard]. They did it to test these modern weapons that are prohibited by international law. This lead to the destruction of 17 camps housing Palestinian refugees and more than 40 Lebanese villages and six other Lebanese towns apart from Beirut. More than 72,000 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were killed or wounded. Most of them were children and women, and they also included old men. More than 1 million Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were driven from their homes.

The aim of this war, which is still going on [passage indistinct] as if afraid. Seventeen attempts to storm the defenses of Beirut failed, and Sharon, the murderer of women and children, had to stop before the defensive barriers in Beirut. In order to save the lives of defenseless civilians. In order to save the lives of the children in Beirut. In order to save whatever still remained of Beirut — a destroyed city. In order to save it from total destruction, after these new Nazis dropped on Beirut during the days of the blockade, which lasted 79 days, an equivalent of the destructive power of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And it suffices for me to remind you that Sharon admitted that in one day alone he ordered 210,000 bombs and shells to be dropped and fired on Beirut. [sentence as heard] I am giving you these figures so that you can imagine what a hell that day was in Beirut.

But the enemies of life, whom the forces of the Palestine revolution and the patriotic Lebanese forces prevented from forcing their way into Beirut during the entire period of 80 days saw our departure as nothing but an opportunity to commit barbaric, Nazi-like acts against defenseless Palestinian refugees and against Lebanese people. They committed massacres in the Sabra and Shatilah camps, which claimed the lives of thousands of sons — innocent and defenseless sons of our people and of the Lebanese people.

Sabra and Shatilah have not been and will not be an eternal shame for Begin and Sharon alone. Other similarly enormous crimes against our people have already been committed: in Dayr Yasin in 1948, and afterwards further masscares in Tulkarim, in Gaza, and Khan Yunis. But Sabra and Shatilah are in their own way the manifestations of total shame for the American Administration. They brought shame on the American Administration, which violated here all the promises made before by an envoy sent by the President to Beirut who promised that the Palestinian civilian population — defenseless and innocent, and also defenseless Lebanese civilians — would be protected.

The heroic and steadfast stand adopted by the PLO and its fighters and people — alongside the heroic Lebanese people and their patriotic Lebanese forces, against this Zionist-American attack — has confirmed totally and undoubtedly that the PLO represents the Palestinian people and their hopes and aspirations. [applause]

In this way, the PLO has achieved broad respect among world public opinion and among peace-loving, freedom-loving, and progressive forces, and the world recognition of the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to self-determination. The right to establish their own national and independent state on the territory of their homeland has also been strengthened. The attitude of the whole world, the attitude of our allies, the Lebanese people, and their national brave resistance has similarly been strengthened.

Rather than the Israeli aggressors and the American Administration respecting this worldwide recognition, they have been continuing in their aggressive policy against the Palestinian people, continuing to deny the rights of our people and carrying out a policy of repressions against Palestinian patriots on the occupied territories, in the Palestine camps in southern Lebanon, stealing land from Palestinian peasants, and building more and more settlements on the occupied Palestine lands.

Today, with the full support of the United States, they are preparing a large-scale aggression against the PLO and against both the Lebanese and the Palestinian nations. The United States has behaved and is behaving likewise. It continues to refuse to recognize the PLO and to recognize the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

This American attitude of hostility toward our people was embodied in President Reagan's so-called initiative. The PLO declares its stand and its opposition to this initative because it (?wants) to defend peace, and because it measures peace by the criterion of justice, justice, and justice. [applause] We identify with nations being able to use their right to self-determination and their right to exercise their national sovereignty on the territory of their homeland. Thus we declare peace on that basis.

We have declared and declare once again that we accept the UN resolution on the Palestinian issue. We have declared that we welcome and support the peace plans for the Middle East proposed by the former Soviet leading representative, Leonid

Brezhnev, in September of last year. We have accepted by voicing our agreement at the Arab summit conference the Arab peace plan for the settlement of the Middle East crisis, which was the outcome of this summit conference held last year in Fes. From this viewpoint we declared several days ago our support for the idea of an international conference proposed by our friend the Soviet Union to resolve the Middle East problem, and the Palestinian question in a just and lasting way that would secure peace and a firm and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. [applause] Our attitude towards these resolutions and these plans is a sure proof of our sincere desire to bring about peace based on justice which would ensure all nations their right to a life of peace and security in their homeland.

Through the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people — which was the result of the Camp David agreements — and through the continuing American attempts to push through the idea of the Reagan initiative and to enforce the agreement between Lebanon and Israel, the United States has attempted to bring about the liquidation of the PLO and the liquidation of the national Palestinian rights, and in this way it is trying to expand American domination over the Middle East as a whole.

Confronted with this reality, the PLO has rejected and has proclaimed its opposition against such plans, and for this reason the campaigns of threats of aggression against us, against Syria, and against the Lebanese people in order to push through these American-Zionist plans by force, the American aggressive actions against the PLO have been stepped up with the aim of destroying the PLO. This is something about which President Reagan and also his secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, have spoken quite openly. [sentence as heard]

But the Palestinian people on their own occupied territory as well as outside this territory, face to face with the American imperialists, continue to strive to renew and strengthen their national unity. At all times, however, difficult they may become, our people — both inside and outside the occupied territories — firmly stand behind their own PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people and its national leadership. [applause]

Campaigns of reports in the imperialist press, which have been talking today a great deal about the PLO and about its problems, have today become the question of [word indistinct] of or people with the aim of distorting the picture of our struggle, our noble struggle, this noble picture enjoyed by the PLO among world public opinion and of striving to damage the broad recognition we have achieved in the international arena.

What has happened of late in Lebanon and in particular during the last few days — here I have in mind the recent events and developments — has all confirmed quite unequivocally that all that is happening is [word indistinct] and unfortunately Arab attempts [passage indistinct]

I myself would like to stress that our answer to all this will be even greater cohesion and unity — national unity —the unity of our people both inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory and within the framework of the PLO, and equally there will be a further and greater escalation of the people's military and political actions against the Israeli occupiers so as to enable our people to win their inalienable rights to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination, and the right to build an independent state on the territory of their homeland and with Jerusalem as its capital. [applause]

Friends, our constant struggle against occupation and against Zionist aggression, against the oppression and hegemonism of imperialism, and against the plans for capitulation that they are trying to impose on us is a part of the process of building peace. It constitutes a defense of peace in our area; in the Middle East area. For this reason we are striving to combine the efforts of all forces that oppose the hegemonistic plans of U.S. imperialism and are against Zionist aggressiveness in the area.

In the forefront of this process is building a Palestinian front, side by side with a patriotic Lebanese front, on the basis of the struggle against aggression and against hegemonism and for strengthening Arab solidarity on the anti-imperialist basis. This front has achieved great successes in stepping up its resistance against the Israeli occupiers and in turning this resistance into an exhausting great war.

We believe that the flashpoint of tension in the Middle East —which is vitally important to world peace because the establishment of a just peace for all nations must also concern the Palestinian people who demand their right to return to self-determination and to build their own independent state and which requires the Israeli occupiers to withdraw from Palestinian territory, from Syrian territory, and from Lebanese territory, territories which are occupied in defiance of all UN resolutions [as heard]. This task cannot be fulfilled without the [word indistinct] of world imperialism on a world-wide scale. This is not the responsibility of the Palestinians alone nor is it merely the Arab responsibility. This is the responsibility of all nations of the world, and of the peace-loving forces and the forces fighting for justice. [prolonged applause, chants]

'Arafat Returns to Tunis from Prague

LD261026 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1006 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Tunis, 26 Jun (KUNA) — Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat returned here this morning from Prague after holding discussions with officials there and making a speech to the World Peace Assembly.

It is probable that the Palestinian leader will go on to Algeria later today for direct talks with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Together with other Arab countries, Algeria is making efforts to contain a Syrian-Palestinian dispute which resulted in banning 'Arafat from Syrian territory.

BAHRAIN

Cabinet Regrets Palestinian-Syrian Differences

GF261602 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH) — The Bahraini Cabinet expressed concern over the dangerous developments on the Palestinian issue and over the recent Palestinian-Syrian differences. The Cabinet called for work to unite Palestinian ranks and repel practices of the Zionist enemy which are aimed at weakening the organization [PLO] and at undermining the struggle of the Palestinian people for restoring their legitimate rights.

In its session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah today the Cabinet reviewed in this regard the message received by the Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah which was carried by 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Aitiqi, adviser to the Kuwait amir. The message dealt with the good efforts being exerted by Kuwait to remedy the differences between factions in the Palestinian revolution and the Syrian Government and the results of the visit recently paid by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and information minister, to Damascus.

The Cabinet also reviewed a report by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah on the efforts being made by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in this direction.

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN on 'Arafat's Departure From Syria

GF261410 Kuwait Al-Watan in Arabic 25 Jun 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Steadfastness in Beirut and Departure From Damascus"]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat is a persona non grata in Damascus. The Palestinian revolution has been linked for many years with the name of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Abu 'Ammar is one of the world's most famous leaders. He has dealt with various Arab and international power games. His memory is alive — alive in 1970 and alive in 1976, alive in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and alive in Tal az-Za'tar.

At a time when Abu 'Ammar becomes a persona non grata in Damascus, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] becomes a target of Israeli or Phalangist shelling. The Israelis know how to depict Abu 'Ammar as a reactionary and how to depict Abu Musa as a revolutionary. The Israelis are not interested in all of this; what is important to them is destroy the political and military arms of the Palestinian revolution. Shamir said a few days ago: "There is essentially no difference between the strategy of Abu 'Ammar's group and the strategy of Abu Musa's group. They differ in tactics only." The Israelis seek to deepen the split and give it an ideological aspect that will affect the loyalties of the Palestinian masses and bring about inter-Palestinian fighting, thus weakening the Palestinian revolution as a whole.

During the invasion of Beirut all the Arabs were equally silent. After the invasion the Arabs rushed to the summit conference. The "hardline" Arabs and the "moderate" Arabs then went to Washington asking for a solution and they were told: An official public Arab recognition of Israel and autonomy for the Palestinians. The U.S. stand then called for withdrawing recognition of the PLO "because its institutions have been destroyed, and its army is weak, so why do you fear it," — in the words of Shultz.

There is a U.S. solution for the Arabs. It was found for Sinai, it was almost found for Lebanon, and it will be found for the Golan Heights. However, there is no U.S. solution for the "difficult number," the Palestinian question, because the difficult number is Israel's existence.

All the Arabs have accepted the Fes summit resolutions. The Fes summit resolutions are close to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 because they state that the UN Security Council will guarantee the security of the states in the area. The Palestinian resistance has opted for armed struggle, and emphasized this option after the departure from Beirut. In the meetings of the Palestinian leaders and in the meetings of the PNC, it was decided to change the military balance of power, reject the Reagan plan and emphasize the right to self-determination and repatriation.

Where do the differences lie then? The differences are over the tactics that should be used in dealing with Arab and international realities in the post-Beirut period, over the best tactics for saving what is left of the Palestinian revolution and developing it.

When 82 percent of Lebanon was liberated by the Lebanese nationalist forces and their Palestinian allies this did not please the Arabs, and the equation was changed so that the balance of power is against the Lebanese nationalist forces-Palestinian alliance.

A few days ago Shultz said that he hopes that a development occurs whereby the PLO would agree to "a legal Palestinian delegation that comprises non-PLO members" negotiating on the basis of the Reagan plan.

When the PLO splits like this, and Abu 'Ammar is prevented from entering Damascus, then this means that the U.S.-Israeli game has reached a really serious stage.

It is certain that wide sectors of the Palestinian people and Arab masses have not lost their confidence in Yasir 'Arafat and his leadership, particularly in the present historical stage, and also particularly in the wake of the steadfastness of Beirut.

We do not say this to undermine Abu Musa, or this person or that from among the Palestinian fighters. But we say that the Israelis will advance to wherever the Palestinians are, even if they be in the depths of the Arabian desert, as long as the Arab countries believe that it is only the Palestinians who are threatened by the Israelis.

Will the next settlement be at the Palestinians' expense? This question is posed by 'Arafat's departure from Damascus, follow-

ing his departure from Beirut with complete Arab silence. Will Shultz come forward after some time with new papers?

In any case, it won't be long before the Arab masses pass their judgment on Abu 'Ammar's departure from Damascus.

Council of Ministers Discusses PLO Crisis

LD261841 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA) — The Council of Ministers Sunday stressed that the fateful relations of struggle between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria should be given the priority and called on all parties concerned to settle their marginal differences and be aware of the critical stage the Arab nation is passing through.

Following today's Cabinet meeting presided over by h.h. the crown prince and premier, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'aziz Husayn said the Council of Ministers had expressed deep regret for the tension which surfaced recently between the PLO and Syria.

Husayn said that the Cabinet resumed discussing developments relating to the Palestinian crisis and the relations between the PLO and Syria which began yesterday, called for and presided over by H.H. the amir yesterday.

Husayn added that the Council of Ministers heard a number of reports and was briefed on the Arab and foreign countries reactions and expressed deep regret over the split in Fatah commando movement and the tension in the Syrian-PLO relations.

"The Cabinet has affirmed that the unity of the Palestinian action is an essential element in the struggle which the Palestinian revolution is launching and that relations of joint and fateful struggle between Syria and the PLO should be backed and coordinated as a priority", the Kuwaiti minister declared.

He added that the Council of Ministers is calling on all parties concerned to surpass their marginal differences in appreciation of the critical stage the Arab nation is passing through and which requires mobilization of all capabilities. Priority ought to be given to the interests of the Arab nation now threatened by the enemy who is occupying its territories and posing a threat on its security, he said.

QATAR

AR-RAYAH Expresses Support for 'Arafat

GF261056 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 26 Jun 83

[From press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 26 Jun (WAKH) — The Qatari paper *Ar-Rayah* has warned that the deterioration of relations between the PLO and Syria and the schism within the Fatah movement will bring bad results to all the parties concerned — and will affect the region — if it is not tackled. The paper stressed that 'Arafat's leadership will remain because Fatah's line, which he represents, is the organizational structure of the body of the Palestinian people.

The paper continued: As 'Arafat has proved — during the experiences of the past 19 years — to be the symbol of the unity of this structure vis-a-vis the tempests of the enemy and the intentions of the brethren, and the current circumstances will not allow for the emergence of a leadership to replace Fatah and the PLO.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Returns from Damascus

LD242251 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Jidda, 24 Jun (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, returned to Jidda this evening from Damascus following a visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

His Highness conveyed a similar message to Jordanian King Husayn during his visit to Jordan.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ Says 'Arafat's Expulsion 'Unacceptable'

GF250904 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0723 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jun (WAM) — In Ash-Shariqah, the newspaper *Al-Khalij* described the Syrian decision to expel Yasir 'Arafat as unintelligible and unacceptable. The paper justified this by saying that Syrian land is the only area where Israel can be countered in all the unjust settlement plots and plans, affirming that "no one should be turned out of the Syrian Arab land so long as his goal is to fight to liberate Palestine, even if views and methods differ."

In its editorial headlined "No to Syria's Behavior," the newspaper called on all factions, forces, and personalities which elected 'Arafat as PLO chairman and have not yet withdrawn their support to reject what happened and to resist it because it is an insult to all and is an irrevocable divorce between the resistance and the Syrian regime that will only benefit the enemy and his allies."

The paper noted that the decision will affect the unity of the Palestinian resistance and its sovereignty against every Arab setback. Concluding, the newspaper said: It was more advantageous to Syria, the PLO, and the Arab nation that Syria reply to all of 'Arafat's statements with counter statements refuting his remarks. Syria could even belie his statements and call him to task by opening the Syrian Army's fire on the enemy and starting an all-out liberation war. Then Yasir 'Arafat would either participate with all his energies and forces or cross his name from the history's record."

PDRY

Foreign Minister Interviewed in UK Paper

PM241328 London Ash-Sharq al-Awsat in Arabic 23 Jun 83 p 1

[*Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* report: "PDRY Foreign Minister: Iran Refines its Oil in Aden; We Support Arab Efforts To Settle Palestinian Differences"]

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali confirmed yesterday that Iran refines its crude oil in the Aden refinery. He said the renewal of the refining agreement which took place during his recent visit to Tehran will not affect his country's relations with Iraq. He said that his talks in the UAE dealt with the current developments in the region and the Iraq-Iran war. The minister declined to talk about a South Yemeni mediation between Iraq and Iran and expressed astonishment at the reports which said that his visit to Tehran was in connection with mediation between Iraq and Iran. His talks with Iranian officials were restricted to discussing the development of relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

In a statement to *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* Dr ad-Dali did not categorically deny the presence of PDRY forces in Syria, but said: I personally have no knowledge of this. But in this regard he affirmed Aden's support for Syria. The minister also expressed his hope that the Palestinian revolution will be able to overcome the problems facing it at present and to preserve its national unity at this critical stage of the Palestinian problem.

Ad-Dali affirmed his country's support for any Arab efforts to resolve the present disputes in the Palestinian revolution's ranks and for any steps leading to unity between the Palestinian resistance factions.

Ad-Dali denied that relations between both parts of Yemen are fluctuating. Our relations are good and are continually developing in the interest of unity between both parts of Yemen, he said.

He said that the committee to settle border questions between his country and the Sultanate of Oman will meet shortly and that contacts are under way to set a date for the meeting. It is hoped that the committee will meet in Kuwait, he added.

With regard to the PDRY's views on the maneuvers which the GCC countries are planning to hold in October in the UAE and the Omani forces' participation in the maneuvers, Dr ad-Dalai declined to comment. He only said that "these countries have a right to carry out any maneuvers they deem appropriate."

The minister said that his country and the GCC countries have common interests, affirming that relations are continuously improving. He expressed the hope that these relations continue improving in the interests of the countries and peoples of the area.

He described his country's relations with Saudi Arabia as good and pointed out that diplomatic relations between the two countries have developed to ambassadorial level. He stressed that Aden is looking forward to further developing these relations in the future in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Regarding his country's attitude toward convening an Arab summit at present, Dr ad-Dali said that there should be good preparation for such a summit.

YAR

YAR-PDRY Leaders Discuss Palestinian Crisis

GF251323 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] SABA' NEWS AGENCY learned that a telephone contact took place yesterday evening between Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland. They exchanged views on national, Arab and international issues that are of interest to both parts of the homeland. They also discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly with regard to the Palestinian question. They agreed on a unified Yemeni stand toward the Palestinian question and stressed their support for the unity of the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Mubarak Receives Message From Jordan's Husayn
NC261858 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a message from King Husayn of Jordan concerning Jordan's stand on developments in the Middle East and on the current conflict within the resistance organizations. Nabil Badr, Egyptian charge d'affaires in Jordan, conveyed the message.

Iraqi Envoy Brings 'Urgent' Message for 'Ali
NC261426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will receive tomorrow, Monday, Ambassador 'Abd al-Malik az-Zi'baq, the envoy of Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. He arrived in Cairo at noon today. MENA has learned that the Iraqi envoy is carrying an important and urgent message from the Iraqi foreign minister to Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the current serious situation the PLO is encountering, the conflicts within its ranks and certain Arab countries' stands toward it.

Officials, PLO Envoys Discuss Current Issues
NC250532 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA) — Continuous meetings and consultations were held today between experts on Palestinian affairs in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and PLO representatives in Cairo on the current serious and deteriorating situation and conflicts among the PLO groups and those who intervene to back these conflicts.

In an official Cabinet statement yesterday, Egypt announced its stand on this tragedy to which the Palestinian resistance is being subjected. Egypt appealed to all Arab parties to exert efforts to preserve the Palestinian leadership's unity and to focus Arab action on achieving the security, unity, and independence of the Palestinian national movement.

Butrus Ghali Denies Reports on U.S. Bases
GF261500 Dubayy Al-Bayan in Arabic 25 Jun 83 p 1

["Exclusive" Report from Cairo]

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, affirmed yesterday that reports by some news agencies on military U.S. bases at which there are U.S. pilots stationed in Egypt are completely untrue.

Dr Ghali said all agreements between Egypt and the United States are public and that there are no secret clauses in any one of them. Egyptian-U.S. relations in the military field are confined to the announced arm deals and the joint exercises which are carried out from time to time and are also made public.

Numayri Arrives in Alexandria on Visit 25 June
NC251754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Alexandria, 25 Jun (MENA) — At 1715 today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at Ra's at-Tin Palace in Alexandria Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, who arrived in Alexandria on a visit of several days.

The Sudanese president was also received by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, deputy prime minister and Minister of Defense and War production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, minister of transport and communications Sulayman Mutawalli, Alexandria Governor Fawzi Mu'adh, naval forces commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Jad, Alexandria University Director Dr Muhammad al-Hudari, leader of the Parliamentary group in Alexandria Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, National Democratic Party Secretary in Alexandria Dr Faruq Jaranah, Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd ar-Rahman Sulayman, Sudanese Consul General in Alexandria Yusuf 'Abbas, Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, and members of the Sudanese Embassy staff.

Sudanese President and Mrs Ja'far Numayri arrived from Khartoum at An-Nuzhah airport in Alexandria at 1700 today. They were met by deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali who accompanied the Sudanese President to Ra's at-Tin palace where President and Mrs Husni Mubarak were at the head of their welcomers.

Official ceremonies of welcome were held for the Sudanese guest at Ra's at-Tin palace: The military band played the Nile valley salute and President Numayri inspected the honor guard that had lined up to salute him. Four children presented him with flowers, and he shook hands with the senior statesmen who were there to welcome him.

It is worth noting that President Numayri spends a number of days of the month of Ramadan every year in the city of Alexandria.

Government Condemns Interference in Chad
NC251328 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpt] A Foreign Ministry official source has stated that Egypt is following with extreme concern the developments of the situation in Chad as well as the reports on the bloody battles that are taking place in Chadian territory. These battles are taking place with the support of the Libyan Government for the purpose of fomenting trouble and endangering the security and unity of this fraternal African country. This country has been torn apart by civil war throughout the past years, which will inevitably hinder the efforts that are being exerted by the legitimate Ndjamena government to rebuild the state and to achieve national interests.

The Egyptian source said: The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt vehemently condemns foreign intereference in

Chad's domestic affairs. Moreover, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt emphasizes its firm stand alongside Chad's people and government in this ordeal. The government also recalls the resolution that was passed by the 19th OAU summit conference that convened recently in Addis Ababa to calm down the situation on the Chadian border. Meanwhile, the government announces that Egypt will continue making diplomatic moves and holding concerted contacts with Sudan and with the group of the friendly African states to end the present conflict in Chad — a conflict that does not only endanger Chad's territorial safety and unity, but that also endangers peace and security on the African Continent itself.

'Ali Returns to Cairo From Visit to FRG

NC241950 Cairo MENA in English 1904 GMT 24 Jun 83

[text]Cairo, June 24 (MENA)— Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned tonight from Bonn where he had talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other West German leaders on Middle East peace, Lebanon and Palestine.

Reportage on Ghali Tour of African States

Statement Before Departure

NC241920 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Dr Butus Ghali will leave Cairo Sunday for Khartoum on the first leg of a tour to Sudan, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, the Congo, and Rwanda. The tour is within the framework of Egyptian diplomatic moves to strengthen Egyptian-African relations in various fields.

Dr Ghali will hand the leaders of the African states which he will visit messages from President Husni Mubarak concerning developments in the Middle East situation and the Egyptian-African foreign ministers dealing with African questions, coordination of stances, and the prevention of any attempts at interference in Africa's affairs.

Dr Ghali said that during the talks, the Egyptian delegation will outline Egypt's stand regarding the necessity of restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the importance of achieving national unity in Lebanon. Dr Ghali said that Egypt is seeking the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the foremost of which are the Israeli forces from Lebanon. He said that Egypt opposes any attempt to partition Lebanon because Egypt believes that there will be no stability and no peace in the Middle East without Lebanon's stability and sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

Dr Ghali said that the tour will begin with a visit to Khartoum to coordinate the two countries' stances regarding the Egyptian-African moves. He said that during the visit to Angola a meeting will be held of the joint Egyptian-Angolan committee to discuss various questions for promoting the relations between the two countries.

Ghali Departs 26 June

NC261441 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left today for Khartoum starting his fortnight tour of seven African countries during which he will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to their heads of state.

Ghali will hold talks with officials of the seven African countries on bilateral relations in various fields.

Discussion will also cover means of solving the African issues, mainly the deteriorating situation in Chad, means of consolidating the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) and helping Namibia to attain its independence.

The state minister is accompanied by a delegation comprising Ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry Sami Thabit, S'ad al-Fararji and 'Ali Mahir.

The African countries Ghali will visit are Sudan, Rwanda, Gabon, Angola, Chad, Congo, and Cameroon.

Meets Sudanese Vice President

NC261725 Cairo MENA in English 1700 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Khartoum, June 26 (MENA) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali arrived here today from Cairo and will be leaving tomorrow for Ndjamena, capital of neighbouring Chad.

He said that his present tour of seven African countries was in support of the Chadian Government, which Egypt is determined to back up diplomatically in international organizations.

He hoped that international efforts would be made to put an end to the Chadian civil war which has torn up the country.

Ghali discussed his tour with First Vice-President Umar at-Tayyib. He said he had received directives yesterday from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, who is paying a private visit to Alexandria.

Speaker Abu Talib Departs for UK Conference

NC260924 Cairo MENA in English 0845 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, June 26 (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib left here this morning leading a parliamentary delegation for the United Kingdom to attend the meetings of French-speaking Inter-Parliamentary Union members due be held there from today to July 4.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr Abu Talib said that the conference will mainly discuss means of achieving rapproachment and cooperation among various countries.

The conference will also discuss the issue of food security in the developing countries, especially since economic problems are suffered by both the developing and industrialised countries, he addded.

Dr Abu Talib also said that the Egyptian delegation will present a proposal to conduct African Islamic studies to get acquainted with the African and Moslem peoples so as to contribute to the solution of their problems.

Concluding, he said that the Egyptian delegation's working paper in this respect includes Islam's role in consolidating human freedom and dignity and rebuilding the Egyptian community within the framework of getting acquainted with the landmarks of Islamic culture and civilisation.

Sri Lankan President Leaves After 1-Week Visit

NC251530 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Sri Lankan President Junius Richard Jayewarene left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a week-long visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Mubarak. The talks dealt with the developments in the international situation in general and the developments of the situation in the Middle East in particular. They also discussed nonaligned issues and bolstering relations between the two countries in various spheres.

Delegate to UN European Headquarters Post Named

NC241942 Cairo MENA in English 1543 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (MENA) — A republican decree issued today named Sa'd Ahmad al-Fararji as Egypt's chief delegate to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva.

Fararji formerly worked in Egypt's United Nations delegation and in the London Embassy.

Communiques Report War Actions 24-26 June

Communique No 1,132

JN241654 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,132 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 24 June 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With great determination and splendid steadfastness the glorious Iraqis are continuing their valiant activities against the forces of the criminal Iranian regime. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy troops which tried to approach our forward positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing two and destroying one vehicle, whose driver was killed. One of our forward units also killed four enemy troops and wounded others in an ambush it set up for the enemy in the same sector the day before yesterday.

2. One was killed and one medium machinegun destroyed east of Basra. Those manning the machinegun were killed.

3. Two weapons and personnel positions were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. This morning the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Mandali and its suburbs. The savage enemy shelling demolished one house and destroyed three civilian vehicles.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 June 1983

Communique No 1,133

JN251737 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,133 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 June 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our heroic Armed Forces — who are defending the nation's land, values and existence — will continue to score brilliant victories over the aggressive Iranian regime forces. The enemies of Iraq will only reap utter defeat. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. Spotting a number of enemy naval targets as they were attempting to enter the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni, in the northeast of the Arab Gulf, our brave naval units and valiant naval Air Force attacked the enemy targets and succeeded at 1000 today in destroying one. Clouds of smoke and tongues of flame were seen billowing from it, while the rest fled in a state of panic and chaos to avoid our naval gunfire. All our naval units and aircraft returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their mission, while the enemy naval target was swallowed by the Arab Gulf waters.

2. Our able Air Force fighter planes today continued their successful raids on ememy positions and troop concentrations in areas opposite our positions in the northern operational sector, scoring direct, effective hits. All of our planes, praise be to God, returned safely to base after carrying out their combat missions successfully and accurately.

3. An enemy force tried to approach our forward positions in the northern operational sector. Our units checked and pounded the enemy force with various types of weapons, killing 19, wounding a number of others, and destroying 2 vehicles carrying personnel. The enemy yesterday sustained 14 killed and 1 vehicle carrying personnel, 1 excavator, 2 infanty positions, and 1 hardware stockpile destroyed as a result of our forward units' activities in the same sector.

4. Two were killed and one infantry position destroyed, killing its occupants, in the Maysan operational sector.

5. One was killed in the area east of Basra.

6. The criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah, damaging a number of civilian establishments in them.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 June 1983

Communique No 1,134

JN261626 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Forward Iraqi units have pounded Iranian positions and concentrations in the southern and central sectors. Communique No 1,134, issued here this evening, added that two Iranians were killed and four personnel positions and one observation post destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,134 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our forces, which are armed with faith, patience, and confidence in decisive victory, continued their valiant activities in the operational sectors. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened artillery fire on enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions east of Basra, killing one, and destroying two infantry positions and their occupants.

2. Our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing one, and destroying two personnel positions.

3. One observation post was destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 June 1983

Trade Unions Urge Arab Support for PLO

JN241515 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Baghdad, June 24, INA — The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions (GFTU) today condemned the conspiracy of the Syrian and Libyan regimes with the collaboration of suspect parties to dismember the unity of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement issued here today the GFTU said dismembering the PLO and involving it in disputes only serves imperialist and Zionist schemes aimed at containing the PLO and stripping it of its ability to make an independent decision.

The federation called upon the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions to shoulder its responsibility and to condemn the conspiracy against the PLO.

The GFTU also urged Arab unions organizations to adopt a unified pan-Arab attitude for the support of the PLO and maintain its unity.

Dailies Condemn Anti-PLO Syrian 'Conspiracy'

JN261604 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA — An Iraqi newspaper said today that when the Syrian regime stabbed the Palestinian revolution in the back, that was just a complementary link in the chain of conspiracies the Zionist enemy designed since it had invaded Lebanon but failed to achieve.

Ath-Thawrah daily, the organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party stated in an editorial today that the Syrian regime has implemented the most serious conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution in collaboration with its allies the Libyan and the Iranian regimes.

This new link was represented in the expulsion of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat from Syrian territories, the newspaper pointed out.

Undoubtedly, the Syrian regime's attempts to dismember and tear up the Palestinian resistance represent a favour done to the American-Zionist scheme and meet with its goals, the newspaper added.

It called for a serious and responsible Arab stand with the PLO and its legitimate leadership and to deter and foil by all means the tripartite conspiracy of Al-Asad-Khomeyni and Al-Qadhdhafi.

Meanwhile, the daily *Iraq* said that the war imposed on Iraq was not only a threat that encroaches its sovereignty and entity but first of all it is an evil instrument to hinder Iraq's pan-Arab role. The newspaper called on the Arab national forces, particularly the Palestinian resistance, to be aware of the new conspiracies knitted by the Syrian regime which kept unabatedly supporting theKhomeyni regime to continue the war against Iraq so that the Syrian regime finds the way clear to implement the capitulationist schemes with the Zionist enemy.

President's Message to Prague World Assembly

JN261348 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA — President Saddam Husayn today warned against the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war which might provide a foreign armed intervention.

In a message addressed to the current meeting in Prague of the World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War, President Husayn emphasized Iraq's readiness to welcome any new initiative or proposal that would bring an end to the hostilities between Iraq and Iran which insists on the continuation of the war.

President Husayn referred to the Zionist aggression on the Iraqi nuclear installations and said the Zionist threat to repeat this aggression against Iraq, Arab or other nuclear installations still stands.

Hereunder the text of President Husayn's message:

On the occasion of the convocation of the World Assembly for Peace and Life Against Nuclear War in the historic capital of Czecholsovakia, Prague, it gives me pleasure to send your meeting my warm greetings along with my sincere wishes for your success. I hope that your meeting will produce positive resolutions and recommendations in the interest of the cause of world peace and disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

We believe it is only natural that the World Peace Council should hold this meeting, motivated by its peaceful approach and its efforts exerted towards supporting the struggle of peoples for independence, freedom and their right to self-determination and towards creating a world free from the perils of a devastating nuclear war, pervaded by peace and tranquility, in which the peoples of the world can achieve economic and social development to the benefit of their broad masses.

I must refer in this connection to an act of blatant aggression committed against Iraq of which you are well aware. It is the Zionist aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations dedicated to peaceful purposes, an act of aggression which was condemned in various international fora. We would like, however, to draw the attention of your meeting to a particular aspect of this aggression which we consider to be directly related to the subject of your meeting. We in Iraq believe in the necessity of considering the attack on peaceful nuclear installations by conventional weapons as an attack by nuclear weapons, since the consequences resulting from such an attack lead to the outbreak of a nuclear war. We sincerely hope that you agree with this view and that your assembly will adopt the appropriate resolution in this respect.

From the very beginning of the war we have been supporters of peace. We have responded to all initiatives taken by international organizations aimed at ending the hostilities and achieving a peaceful, just and honourable solution to our dispute with Iran. The world now knows which of the two parties really seeks peace and which of the two insists on the continuation of the war. Iran insists on the continuation and escalation of the war against the interests and will of the peoples of the region and against the

interests and unanimous will of the international community. It is Iran which bears full responsibility for this.

We believe that joint efforts of good-will for the achievement of peace are necessary to convince Iran, the party insisting on the continuation of the war, to end the hostilities.

In conclusion, I should emphasize that we in Iraq welcome, as we have always done in the past, any new initiative or proposal that would bring a speedy end to the war which has brought untold hearm to the states of the region and to the international community.

Once more I send you my sincere greetings along with my good wishes for your success.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic of Iraq

Industry Minister Leaves for Moscow 26 June

JN260822 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA) — Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin left for Moscow today to head the Iraqi delegation to the 13th session of the joint Iraqi-Soviet committee which will begin meetings there tomorrow, Monday.

In a statement to INA, Yasin said that the committee will discuss what has been implemented of the resolutions and recommendations that were adopted in the previous session which convened in Moscow last year. The committee will also discuss industrial, economic and trade affairs with the purpose of promoting joint action and expanding its sphere between the two friendly countries.

Briefs

Kurdish Draftees Called Up — The Iraqi Defense Ministry's Department of Mobilization and Statistics today issued a communique calling on Kurdish draftees who were born in 1963 and who were discharged from military service, and Kurdish draftees who were born in 1964 outside the Kurdistan Autonomous Region and who have not yet joined the military service, to report to the recruitment centers within 3 days as of 18 July 1983. [Excerpt] [Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jun 83 JN]

Reaction to 'Arafat Expulsion, PLO Situation

JORDAN TIMES 25 June Editorial

JN250735 Amman Jordan Times in English 25 Jun 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Symbol of Struggle"]

[Text] If Yasir 'Arafat is the symbol of Palestinian national struggle for his people's rights to self-determination and statehood, his expulsion from Syria Friday cannot be but a gigantic step backward, carried out and orchestrated by no less than those who have supposedly made the Palestinian cause their best reason for living. If he is not, God knows what else the Syrian regime would have done to the Palestinians.

At first, the Syrian president was thought not to like the PLO chairman, because the latter preferred to go to Greece rather than Damascus after the Palestinian fighters' departure from Beirut last August. Then Mr al-Asad was reportedly trying to control him. Now, it has become evident the Syrians do not want him. What then do they want?

The Al-Asad regime is paranoiac, hegemony being its best attempts to dominate the PLO and its leadership. It is a greedy regime that wants to have its cake and eat it too -- the Palestinians being the easiest prey around. Other than that, the Syrians are trying their hand at masterminding Arab politics in the Middle East.

Whatever their motives in challenging Mr 'Arafat's leadership, the Syrians must know that their assault on the Palestinians can only serve the Israeli enemy. Containing the PLO, by this or that party, is exactly what the Israelis always wanted and still want today. In the end, it just will not work.

Happily, the Palestinian people know and believe in what they want, and will continue the struggle for their rights, regardless of Arab pressures and against all other odds. The latest Syrian attempt against their legitimate leadership is just another stab in the back that will hurt but won't matter.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Article

JN241148 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jun 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Conspiracy Against the PLO Is Also One Against Legitimacy," *Sawt ash-Sha'b* says: If we say that the most dangerous challenge now facing the Palestinian issue is its loss of priority in Middle East events, after Israel and other parties in the region have succeeded in fragmentizing the issue into groups of secondary issues which attract Arab and international attention, then the attempts of some Arab parties to strike at the center of power in the PLO, weaken the organization, harm it, and deprive it of its legitimacy represent the apex of Arab tragedy and the last chapter in the Palestinian drama. Exploiting the simple differences inside Fatah to practice moral pressures in the name of the dissidents, and physical pressures by means of shells and tanks to change the Palestinian leadership and deprive it of the freedom of decisionmaking and the independence of their position, constitute the last phase in the big plot against the Palestinian people and the Palestine cause.

Sawt ash-Sha'b says: Those in Damascus or Tripoli who are trying to contain the PLO and turn it into a tool to serve their regimes like a milking cow, have forgotten that they are playing a dangerous and exposed game. The attempt to gamble on the destiny and leadership of the PLO means to gamble on the legitimacy of Palestinian representation, which is acknowledged by the Arabs and the world. Any change in the PLO'S legitimate and democratic structure will deprive any caricature, subservient body from legitimacy in representing the Palestinian people.

Sawt ash-Sha'b adds: Hence, the official Jordanian warning on the danger of the developments that result from weakening and hurting the PLO, or turning it into a tool to serve certain Arab regimes. All this will deprive the PLO of its legitimate representation of the Palestinians and will result in a reconsideration of many matters related to the Palestinian issue. The PLO is considered the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on the Arab and international arenas, because it grew from an independent Palestinian decision, a free Palestinian will, a complete democratic method, and an Arab consensus in the Rabat summit. The PLO leadership did not come under the protection of those who are financed by Libya or under the cover of Damascus' tanks and artillery.

Sawt ash-Sha'b adds: Therefore, any change that takes place by aggression or plotting against the PLO will mean that other Arabs and non-Arabs will have a different opinion of this change. It will also mean a radical change in the legitimacy of Palestinian representation and in dealing with the new reality in accordance with what will serve the Palestinian people, their institutions, and their sacred cause.

Sawt ash-Sha'b concludes: The Arabs are called upon today to adopt a responsible and courageous position to face the encroachments against the PLO and its leadership, and the danger of destruction which is threatening the Palestinian issue. The aggression taking place in Al-Biqa' against the PLO constitutes an aggression against the freedom of the Palestinian decision and the independence of the Palestinian action and its legitimate institutions, which were backed by the Arab summit conferences. The problem is not only that of the PLO; it concerns the entire Arab nation.

JORDAN TIMES Article

JN250833 Amman Jordan Times in English 25 Jun 83 pp 1,3

[Special to *Jordan Times* By Lamis K. Anduni]

[Text] Amman — Prior to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's expulsion from Syria on Friday, the Syrian regime had sent home some 700 Soviet military personnel stationed in the country, in a bid aimed at starting American- Syrian talks on Lebanon and the whole question of the Middle East, a well placed PLO official said here Friday.

The official, who did not wish to be identified, accused Syria of entering a "deal" with Washington against the PLO. "We think that there is a Syrian-American deal in which Washington has demanded that Damascus move to contain the PLO, to eliminate the Lebanese national movement (against the Lebanon-Israeli withdrawal agreement) and to abolish the Soviet military presence in Syria," he said.

An estimated 3,500 Soviet military experts were reportedly stationed in Syria after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer. In addition to the experts, Moscow has also provided its Arab ally with sophisticated SA-5 missiles, the first time such missiles are deployed outside the Eastern bloc.

Syria has consistently maintained a rejectionist stand against all U.S.-Sponsored peace moves in the Middle East. And Damascus has vehemently rejected the Lebanon-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement signed last month saying that it violates Lebanese sovereignty and threatens Syrian security.

The Syrian agreement to the pact is vital to its implementation since Israel insists that it would withdraw its 25,000 soldiers from Lebanese territory only after Syria and the PLO recalled their forces stationed in Lebanon.

Syria also refused to receive U.S. President Reagan's special Middle East envoy Philip Habib to discuss the withdrawal agreement and it was reported in Washington that contacts are under way with Damascus to initiate fresh moves to secure Syrian agreement to the pact.

Commenting on PLO charges that the Syrians are siding with rebels opposed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in attacks against positions held by forces loyal to Mr 'Arafat in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley, the PLO official said in an interview with the *Jordan Times and Ar-Ra'y newspaper that "Syria's attacks* against the pro-Arafat forces in Fatah [the biggest commando movement under the PLO umbrella] are part of an American deal to settle the Arab Israeli conflict behind the back of the Palestinians."

The rebellion against Mr. 'Arafat's leadership in Fatah in Al-Biqa' valley and Syria which started last month has since taken on a bloody form in which Syrian and Libyan forces were reportedly backing the rebels and helping them take over loyalist Fatah positions in the Al-Biqa'. Syria has repeatedly denied intervention in Fatah dispute and expressed its willingness "to help in resolving inter-Fatah conflict". But Friday's decision to expel Mr 'Arafat from Syria constituted a major shift in PLO-Syrian relations.

"My own estimation," the PLO official said, "was that (Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad did not want 'Arafat, but I was in a minority on this in the PLO and most others thought that the Syrian president would settle for a weakened 'Arafat."

He pointed out that "the Syrian assault" against the Palestinians during the 10 days in Al-Biqa' and in Syria is not the first of its kind, for Syria has been trying to contain the Palestinian decision since 1966.

The Palestinian official expressed the view that Syria "is using the rebels" to achieve its own aims. "The rebels will gain nothing if Syria succeeded in subduing the PLO leadership because Syria will supress them as well." he said.

This view was echoed by a number of well informed Palestinian observers in Amman. They pointed out that even though many of the demands laid down by the rebels were "legitimate", the method that has been used to express them was dangerous. They expressed concern that a mutiny, particularly at this stage, might play into the hands of "certain Arab regimes" that see the containment, if not the liquidation, of the PLO.

Press Reaction

JN251154 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Under the headline "A Conspiracy That Will Not Pass," *Ad-Dustur says: The rulers of Damascus and Tripoli, Libya,* are wrong in believing that the Palestinian revolution is like a man who can be replaced by another, or that the PLO is a leadership that can be replaced by another. The revolution and the organization headed by Yasir 'Arafat's leadership are the outcome of prolonged Palestinian suffering and the result of expectations and aspirations that cannot be renounced or appointed by a decision from Damascus or Tripoli, Libya.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] described the decision to expel him from Damascus as being similar to the Israeli decision that forced him to leave Beirut. If the Israeli decision werejustified, natural, and expected, then the Syrian decision needs also to be justified and clarified. 'Abu 'Ammar is not merely a man but the symbol of a people, revolution, and organization, which has led the political and military struggle of the Palestinian people for the past 19 years. Damascus' decision at this particular stage raises scores of questions. It not only raises a certain amount of astonishment, but places before us measures that are just as serious as all those that are hostile to the issue of the Palestinian people and their right to choose their leadership until they return to their land.

Ad Dustur adds: The Syrian action, paved by all Syrian and Libyan practices since the start and during the invasion of Lebanon, and after the evacuation of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut, clearly confirms the intention of the two countries to decide appointing new leadership for the Palestinian revolution and the PLO. Syria and Libya do not realize that the Palestinian people, who know very well their brothers from their enemies and their friends from their foes, cannot support any organization that is, first and foremost, a mere official department of this Arab country or that. Perhaps the reactions that condemned the Syrian and Libyan positions on the conspiracy in the Al-Biqa', and which escalated inside and outside the occupied homeland, will stand witness to their naivety.

The paper concludes: We are confident that the international and conspiratorial chapter against the Palestinian issue will not pass. We are confident that the awareness of the Palestinian people, and the millions of Arabs, of the truth behind every Arab side will foil the attempts of the enemies of the Palestinian

revolution, the PLO, and its legitimate leadership. The PLO leadershipstood fast valiantly in the face of aggression, fought at a time when the others capitulated, and foiled all the objectives of the Zionist invasion, which was preceded by painful stabs in the back in Lebanon and in the Palestinian refugee camps.

Under the headline "What Next?," *Ar-Ra'y* says: The Syrian decision to expel Yasir 'Arafat from Syria and to prevent Khalil al-Wazir from entering Syria suggests that the Palestinian resistance's ordeal is worsening. Also, the same decision raises the question on what awaits the organization as a result of the isolation of its fighters in the Al-Biqa' valley and eastern Lebanon from their leadership.

The Arab individual stands puzzled before this strange development which cannot be justified by any pan-Arab standard. It is unreasonable to assume that this escalating ordeal continues while the Palestinian fighters in the Al-Biqa' stand face to face with the Israeli forces, and while Israel impatiently awaits the removal or dismemberment of the PLO and its loss of presence, influence, and representative status. In view of this result, many wonder about the course of events in the region following the stab to the organization and whether there are external sides that know of this course.

Therefore, it is not unusual in this case for the U.S. Administration to be pleased with the developments, even if it concealed such emotions. The U.S. position toward the organization is known to all, and therefore, the blows that are dealt to the PLO are bound to reinforce this position and make it more irreconcilable. However, no one knows anything about what took place under the cover of darkness.

The blows that were dealt to the organization suggest that the conspiracy was not only aimed against it or its leadership, but against the issue itself. This makes it incumbent upon the Arabs to confront this conspiracy seriously and quickly, since there is nothing more serious than denying the Palestinian people their legitimate leadership, harming it, or taming it in the interest of one or more than one Arab regime. We hope the Arabs will act soon before it is too late. We hope they will not have history portray them as spectators.

Under the headline "What Is Required Now," *Sawt ash-Sha'b* says: At a time when the occupied Palestinian land is being liquidated and Judaized, we find that the differences between some resistance factions on the one hand, and between some of these factions and some regimes on the other, reach new peaks. Several Arab countries made their moves through shuttling officials between the capitals, or conveying oral or written messages. Although a great deal of hope may be pinned on such moves, it is our opinion that what is required now is an effective and speedy move carried by the legitimate quarters in the PLO, such as the represented organizations; that is, the resistance factions, those who have influence in the PNC or the Central Council, or any legitimate Palestinian functionaries and dignitaries. *Sawt ash-Sha'b* adds: We say this realizing that meetings were already held between some of the resistance factions in order to meet their responsibility toward what is taking place in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, which will have fundamental and fateful effects on the issue. We also say this knowing that meetings were held in Amman between some members of the PNC to meet their responsibility under the same fateful and serious circumstances.

We believe that pan-Arab and historical duty dictates that opportunties be given to all these moves in order that they may have an effect and achieve the desired results. It is a pan-Arab duty and a Palestinian duty, otherwise the liquidation and Judaization of the occupied Palestinian land will succeed and every Arab will be held responsible, particularly those who oppose shouldering responsibility while they themselves do not meet it.

Further Press Reaction

JN251158 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jun 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Jordan's Stand on the Al-Biqa' Conspiracy" *Ad-Dustur* says: Through the statements by authoritative sources yesterday, Jordan defined its clear and courageous stand on the Al-Biqa' conspiracy. Jordan, which has accustomed its nation to courage and clarity in its words and deeds, frankly does not view the Al-Biqa' incidents as a dispute among the Palestinians. Such a view implies support for the conspiracy to enable it to attain its serious objectives. One of these major objectives is to strike at and liquidate the PLO because it is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

Ad-Dustur adds: Jordan believes that what has taken place and is taking place in Al-Biqa' aims to wipe out the freedom and independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking, which means, in reality, the imposition of hegemony on the Palestinian cause. It also will inevitably lead to the fulfillment of an Israeli dream. Failure to achieve this dream has been the major obstacle facing the Zionist scheme, whose target is to obliterate the Arab character of every inch of the occupied Palestinian land and the wresting of the Palestinian people from their homeland.

Ad-Dustur concludes: We believe that the statements and warnings of the Jordanian authoritative source need no additional clarification. Jordan supports the PLO which has acquired its legitimacy from a Palestinian and Arab consensus. Jordan cannot support any conspiracy which has been concocted outside the framework of the Arab and Palestinian consensus.

Under the headline "An Honest and Spotless Stand" *Ar-Ra'y* says: Jordan has clearly, forcibly, and courageously proclaimed its stand in support of the PLO and its legitimate institutions against the conspiracy which aims to usurp the freedom of Palestinian decisionmaking, harm the PLO, and transform it into a card in service of Arab regimes at the expense of the Palestinian cause and people.

Ar-Ra'y adds: This stand is not a new one. Palestinians still remember Jordan's successive calls on the need not to interfere in the PLO'S affairs and not to drag it into Arab differences to enable it to safeguard its strength, unity, presence, and its status

of representation. Jordan has repeatedly called for leaving the PLO alone to prevent it from reaching the state in which it is now.

Ar-Ra'y says: What draws one's attention is that, except for the free voices which were heard in the occupied Palestinian territory proclaiming their support for the PLO and denouncing the conspiracy against it, no other voice of those who in the past had mastered the art of lamenting over the PLO, issuing statements, and raising slogans in support for the PLO, was heard. It seems that these voices remained silent after being instructed to be quiet. They forgot what they used to say about pan-Arab commitment, militant cohesion and other resounding cliches. One wonders: Where are these voices now? Why have they not been heard sincerely supporting the PLO? This is the least that can be expected.

Arab Committee for Palestine Issues Statement
JN251717 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The Higher Arab Committee for Palestine in Amman has praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts in defending the Palestine question, the safety of the PLO, and the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. It also expressed its pride in his majesty's endeavors to prevent aggression against the Palestinians and attempts to interfere in their affairs. The committee also denounced the sinful aggression to which the Palestinians are being exposed and strongly condemned the attempts which aimat splitting and disrupting the Palestinian ranks and at undermining Fatah's unity in preparation for destroying the PLO.

In a statement issued today, the committee asserts that what is happening in Lebanon and Syria in general and in the Al-Biqa' in particular is the result of a conspiracy drawn up by the enemies and the covetous with the aim of liquidating the Palestine question by removing those who claim it and struggle for it. The committee also calls on the Arab nation to adopt all effective ways and means to rescue the Palestinians from their crisis, safeguard their cause and rights, and maintain their freedom and independence in managing their affairs, handling their issues, and adopting their decisions.

Crown Prince Leaves for Private Visit to UK
JN250710 Amman Sawt ash-Sha'b in Arabic 25 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman this morning on a private visit to the United Kingdom. He was seen off by Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, the chief qadi, the mayor of Amman, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Al-Wazzan on Syrian-Palestinian Problem

NC252154 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Commenting today on the crisis in the Palestinian-Syrian relations, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said he believes that this issue will freeze the discussion of the Lebanese crisis for some days. Al-Wazzan outlined his views in this respect and said that during this period the Arabs will be preoccupied with the Syrian-Palestinian issue in order to resolve the problems between them. He added that this matter could negatively or positively affect the Lebanese issue and the efforts aimed to achieve the withdrawals from Lebanon.

Qulaylat, Soldatov Discuss Syrian-PLO Conflict

NC251442 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [head of the Independent Nasirite Movement Al-Murabitun] today held a lengthy meeting with the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Mr Aleksandr Soldatov. The meeting was attended by the Soviet minister plenipotentiary, by senior embassy staff members, and by a number of brother members of the movement's command.

The discussion at this meeting centered on the importance of the serious developments that have occurred within the past 48 hours, and particularly on the developments that have occurred between the liberation forces in the central arena in the area, that is, the Syrian and the Palestinian liberation forces. The discussion also centered on the impact of these developments on the Lebanese scene.

AN-NAHAR Comments on Palestinian-Syrian Rift

NC250755 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jun 83

[From the press review]

[Text] The most outstanding events in today's papers are the dramatic developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations and the serious conflict inside the Fatah movement in the Al-Biqa'.

An-Nahar writes on this subject: All the developments confirm the gloomy picture of the Arab situation. This situation is today perhaps worse than it was when Israel began its war in Lebanon. Yesterday's developments have assumed a most serious character, and added a new reason to the many reasons that have perpetuated the divisions within the Arab world. The present division in the Arab situation does not seem to be surprising, because there had been many signs indicating the possibility of reaching the present situation. Some maintain that the Arab world is being torn apart as a result of its inability to wage war and its inability to embark on peace. Because the Arab world was unable to face the challenges imposed on it by the Israeli forces' invasion of Lebanese territory, the Israeli military operation placed difficult choices before the Arabs. It is possible to say that it placed Lebanon, which the Israeli forces are partly occupying, with the choice between war and peace, and placed the PLO, and specifically Fatah, with a similar choice after its exit from Beirut. This is in addition to the more comprehensive choices Syria was faced with.

Although Lebanon is still living in a sea of difficulties and shocks, it was able to obtain many cards, the most important of which are the Saudi and U.S. cards. These help Lebanon to resist the developments which are currently taking place and which it has been expecting.

Salim Asks UK, PRC Envoys To Support Mandate

NC240919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today continued his consultations with the representatives of the UN Security Council permanent member-states regarding the renewal of UNIFIL's mandate for another 3 months. At 1000 today, he received British Ambassador David Roberts and then the Chinese ambassador and asked them to support the Lebanese request to the UN Security Council.

Beirut Radio on Haddad's Return From Washington

NC251853 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Dr Wadi' Haddad, President al-Jumayyil's adviser, has returned to Beirut following a visit to the United States. During this visit, he held contacts with the U.S. officials, particularly Secretary of State George Shultz.

As we were told today by Dr 'Abdallah Abu Habib, the Lebanese ambassador in Washington, Dr Haddad's talks dealt with preparations for President al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington next July and with a review of the outcome of the talks that were held by the U.S. side with David Kimche, the secretary general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The U.S. talks with Kimche touched on Israel's hinting at a redeployment of its forces in Lebanon.

Report on Salam's Visit to Syria Denied

NC261555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS reported that the Syrian authorities have invited [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam to visit Syria and that the visit will take place within 48 hours. It is known that Prime Minister Salam is now in Geneva on a private visit. Sources close to Prime Minister Salam have said that this report is not true.

Operations Against IDF Reported 25 June

NC251830 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] In the security sphere, reports say that a barricade manned by the Zionist occupation forces in the township of Al-'Aqbiyah in the south last night came under an attack with rocket projec-

tiles that were launched by men of the Lebanese National Resistance. A clash ensued with the enemy forces that lasted 30 minutes, after which an Israeli helicopter was seen landing in the area. This helicopter was then seen moving a number of casualties suffered by the enemy troops to hospitals in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, this evening the enemy radio admitted to two operations that were launched against two Israeli positions near the townships of 'Ammiq and Kamid al-Lawz in western Al-Biqa'. Rocket projectiles and automatic weapons were used in these two operations. Furthermore, the enemy radio admitted to the operation that occurred yesterday near the township of Dibbin in the south against an Israeli military transport vehicle. However, and as usual, the radio did not mention casualties among the enemy soldiers.

Within the context of Israeli raids and harassment in the south, the enemy forces today cordoned off the township of Al-Marwaniyah in the Az-Zahrani area, raided a number of houses, and arrested some persons including Ahmad Ballul. An Israeli force also compelled the merchants in the township of Qana to close their shops and businesses. The reason for this order is not known.

Israeli Forces 'Repeatedly' Attacked 26 June
NC261656 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Israeli forces in southern Lebanon were repeatedly attacked today. Security sources have reported that two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded when two handgrenades were thrown at an Israeli patrol near Sham'un Mosque in northern Sidon at 1330 today. The Israeli forces immediately cut the road, and began combing the area and firing in the air. They also cut the Sidon-Beirut Road in both directions. We received a report a short time ago saying that the Israeli forces have reopened the Sidon-Beirut Highway in both directions. However, they are raiding a number of houses and combing groves in search for gunmen.

At 1530 today a projectile fell in the Az-Zahrani riverbed, damaging a wooden shed and wounding a girl from the Al-'Ali family. Another projectile fell into the sea near the Medreco Company.

'Complete Calm' in All Areas Reported 26 June
NC262023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] A security source has reported that complete calm is prevailing in all Lebanese areas. The source said that the artillery duels which started at 1700 today between Shartun, Kafr 'Ammay, and Baysur in 'Alayh District, stopped at 1830.

2 Wounded by Artillery Shelling Overnight 27 June
NC270546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The security situation has deteriorated in the mountain area. According to security reports this morning, there were exchanges of gunfire at 1700 yesterday among the villages of Shartun, Kafr 'Ammay, and Baysur in 'Alayh district.

Artillery duels were resumed at midnight last night among Ma'asriti, Shanayh, Mansuriyat Bhamdun, Sharun, Btatir, (Nad al-Ba'na), and (Bidghan). The shelling intensified gradually until early this morning. Shells also fell on the Antilyas, Al-Mukallis, Tall az-Za'tar, Ad-Dikwanah, Harat al-Ghawrinah, Juniyah, Sarba, the Hayik Circle, Brummanah, Bayt Miri, Az-Zuq, Rumiyah, Jawrat al-Ballut, and Harisah areas. Shells fell also on the areas of the Chevrolet [as heard], Al-Basha Bridge, and Sinn al-Fil on the coast.

Security sources reported that their information so far indicates that two persons were slightly wounded in Juniyah and that two cars were burned in the Al-Hayik circle and Al-Mukallis.

KUNA: Tannus Views Army Role After Others Withdraw
LD261903 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1521 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jun [KUNA) — In an interview published here today commander of the Lebanese Army, General Ibrahim Tannus, said that the Army in Lebanon takes its orders from the civilian authority and under the Lebanese structure it is difficult for the Army to seize the civilian authority.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti *As-Siyasah*, General Tannus said that the mission of the army is confined to "achieving security and stability and protecting democracy and it cannot go out of the circle of legitimacy and democratic structure."

Concerning the issue of filling the security and military vacuum, the size of the army and its ability to fill the vacuum, Tannus said: "This matter is related to the cohesion between the Army and the people and the level of cohesion dictates the requirements of security."

He expressed his idea that 60,000 Lebanese fighters divided to form 12 brigades is "enough" to preserve security during the first stage following the withdrawal of the forces since 12,000 soldiers had sufficed in the past.

He mentioned that he could also say that Lebanon will have three types of armies: "The mission of the first is to preserve security; the mission of the second is to deter in order to spread sovereignty on the borders and to stop any penetration of foreign forces into our territories; and the third is the productive Army which must contribute to operations of building and reconstruction."

He added that after the mission of the multinational forces ends: "The Lebanese Army will be ready for deployment everywhere in Lebanon and will be able to protect the citizens."

FAO Director Arrives To Sign Agreements

NC252022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Dr Edouard Saouma, the FAO director general, this afternoon arrived in Beirut from Rome to sign agreements with the Lebanese Government and to hold contacts with a number of officials.

In an arrival statement at the airport, Dr Saouma said that there is a contract that he will sign with the Lebanese Government. Under this contract, the FAO will give Lebanon 6,000 tons of chemicals as a gift from the Italian Government. This quantity of chemicals will be sold to holders of small farmland areas at reduced prices on the understanding that their payment will be channeled into a special fund for loans to the holders of small farmland areas.

Dr Saouma added: The projects that will be discussed include one for the development of fishing in southern Lebanon. This project, valued at $2 million, will be offered by the European Common Market.

Alleged Assassins of U.S. Envoy Detained

NC241257 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Jun 8

[Excerpt]Seven years after the assassination of U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Francis Meloy, Jr., embassy counselor Robert Waring and the ambassador's chauffeur, Zuhayr Mughrabi, Radio Free Lebanon learned today that the competent Lebanese organs have arrested the culprits. They are four Lebanese who belong to one of the Palestinian organizations and formed a terrorist network to implement operations aimed at assassinating foreign and Arab diplomats. The information adds that the network leader is named M. Al-Farkh.

Statement Issued on Expulsion of 'Arafat'

JN241734 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] In Damascus, an informational source has stated the following:

In light of Yasir 'Arafat's continued recriminations against Syria and its sacrifices and principled stands, he was informed today of Syria's desire for him not to continue his visits to it ['adam taraddudihi ilayha].

This, however, does not rule out Syria's concern and its continued work to prevent fratricide, heal the rift, and bring about an accord among the brother Palestinians because this is a principled Syrian stand connected with the Palestinian revolution's interests and those of the PLO.

Reaction to Expulsion of PLO's 'Yasir Arafat

TISHRIN Article

JN250926 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jun [SANA] — *Tishrin* says that in the wake of the failure of the efforts that were exerted by Syria and the Palestinian resistance factions to convince Yasir 'Arafat to resort to democratic dialogue for healing the rift within Fatah instead of resorting to violence, slander, and falsehoods, 'Arafat persisted in issuing on Syrian territory statements that were hostile to Syria. Through these statements, which are irresponsible and full of premeditated slander, 'Arafat has blocked the road to constructive dialogue and to the contacts underway for attaining a solution that would safeguard Fatah's unity and the Palestinian evolution's dynamism.

The paper adds: Instead of dealing with the core of the dispute between the two disputing parties within Fatah, which revolves around 'Arafat's political course and deviation from PNC resolutions, 'Arafat persisted in accusing Syria of being responsible for the current events, for which he himself is responsible.

Syria, meanwhile, repeatedly stated that differences among the Palestinians are their own concern, that it will not interfere in them in any way whatsoever, and that when the disputing parties express their readiness to resort to mediation, it will be ready to offer any assistance to safeguard Fatah's unity, and that of the PLO, and to entrench the Syrian-Palestinian alliance which is a fateful one for the Arab nation in these current difficult circumstances.

In view of 'Arafat's persistence in exacerbating the dispute and his continued attacks against militant Syria, Syria found itself compelled to ask him not to continue his visits to Damascus.

As the informational source has stated, this, however, does not rule out Syria's concern. Syria will continue to work to prevent fratricide, heal the rift, and bring about an accord among the brother Palestinians because this is a principled Syrian stand connected with the Palestinian revolution's interests and those of the PLO.

Damascus Radio Comment

JN251326 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Whenever the Palestinian issue is mentioned, Syria must also be mentioned because the Palestinian issue was, is, and will remain Syria's first and principal cause and its foremost pan-Arab commitment.

This Syrian position has not changed and cannot change due to several historical, geographical, emotional, national, pan-Arab, security, and defensive factors. The history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which erupted violently in 1948, is a witness to the fact that Syria's position on the Palestinian issue has been a faithful one based on firm principles in which the Syrian masses believe, and based on common history, geography, destiny, interests, pan-Arab affiliation, and future.

The Syrian masses have confirmed this fact and proved it with blood and sacrifices. The Syrian Armed Forces confirmed this in every battle they fought in defense of the Palestinian issue, Syria, and the Arab nation. The battles of occupying the (Meshmar Hyron) settlement; Najmat as-Subuh; Al-Quri farm; Tall al-Maliki, and others, as well as confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last year, particularly the battle in defense of Beirut, testify to Syria's stand. Thus no one can be more enthusiastic about the Palestinian issue than Syria. No one, regardless of who he is and where he was born, can encroach on Syria as far as the Palestinian issue is concerned. Syria is the defender of the Palestinian issue, the shelter of the Palestinian revolution, the refuge of the Palestinian strugglers, the lungs with which the Palestinian resistance and issue breathe, and the arena which lovingly opens its doors, heart, and capabilities to the sons of the Palestinian people.

At a time when some people were holding overt and covert contacts and negotiations with the United States, discussing plans, designs, and proposals, exchanging pledges, promises, and commitments with Philip Habib, Draper, and Ross directly and through mediators; when these people were making contacts and negotiating with the Israelis; and when these people were holding talks to give up the trust of the representation of the Palestinian people and handing it over to those who wished to join the new image of the Camp David process — the so-called Reagan proposals — at a time when some people were adopting this course, Syria remained faithful to its principles and committed to the Palestinian issue. At that time, Syria was defending Beirut and the Palestinian revolution and people with blood and was rejecting any negotiations that revolved at the expense of the Palestinian issue, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people.

We are not exaggerating when we say that had it not been for Syria's steadfastness and its principled stands, some people would have entered the White House in Washington instead of fighting to enter the Palestinian house in Jerusalem. Syria's commitment to the Palestinian issue does not mean being committed to certain individuals because individuals come and go, make mistakes anddo the correct things. However, the issue remains and pan-

Arab commitment to the Palestinian issue will also remain. Syria, which handled many burdens in its commitment to the Palestinian issue, its national and pan-Arab issue, cannot allow itself to be insulted on its territory through the dissemination of false accusations and slander.

Yasir 'Arafat's hostile behavior toward Syria, his propagation of false accusations and information, and his leading role in the instigation campaign against Syria cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Even heads of state have never exploited their presence in a country to direct unfounded accusations against its government, to make provocative statements against its officials and to describetruthful official statements as a new farce.

Syria adopted a stand on Yasir 'Arafat, who violated all familiar norms between brothers, friends, and allies, even between countries and parties that do not harbor great love for each other; however, its stand is limited to offenders. Nothing can change Syria's stand on the Palestinian issue, the PLO, its unity and the unity of its factions. Also, nothing can change Syria's commitment to the central issue of the Arab nation.

If the course of bargaining and negotiations with imperialism and Israel, the exchange of the gun with the white or rosy banners and the revolutionary course with the devious course has collapsed in the Arab arena and has been denounced on the Palestinian level, this is not Syria's fault unless Syria's commitment to the Palestinian cause is a sin.

The defeatists who are seeking to provoke Syria and fabricate a battle with it to cover up for their defeat and distort the real image in the Palestinian arena will be committing a grave mistake by this action which will only harm them. The Palestinian arena, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, knows that Syria is eager for PLO unity, that of the Palestinian revolution, the unity of the Palestinian resistance factions, and the cause of the Palestinian Arab people. As for the differences in the Palestinian arena, they are the Palestinians'own concern to be settled by them. Syria was never a party to these differences and no one can have it become a party to these differences.

Newspaper Reaction

JN261107 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Inevitable Measure To Foil the Conspiracy of Fratricide," *Al-Ba'th* says: We would like to stress before anything else that Syria is not in need of a certificate of good conduct from anybody on its commitments and sacrifices for the sake of the Palestine question, which has always been Syria's major concern. Consequently, Syria also does not need any kind of cover. Syria, which has and is still offering sacrifices for the sake of the national and pan-Arab issues, foremost being the Palestine question, does not wait to be flattered by this or that side. Syria does this from the belief that the Arab nation's issues cannot be dissociated. In return, Syria considers any attempt or any behavior to affect this or that pan-Arab issue, as an action which is aimed against the entire Arab nation. This compels all Arabs, without any exception, to move to put an end to such behavior or violations which harm the pan-Arab issue. Thus, the expulsion of 'Arafat from Damascus stems from Syria's concern over the Palestinian revolution's unity and consequently the unity of arms in the face of the Zionist invaders. Syria has taken this measure after it has become very certain that 'Arafat, in agreement with foreign sides, intended to turn the Al-Biqa' into a field for Palestinian fratricide, then to drag Syria into this fighting in order to complete the objectives of the invasion.

Al-Ba'th adds: While serious attempts were taking place to patch up the differences within the Fatah movement itself, 'Arafat was pushing matters toward fighting. 'Arafat, who has failed in dragging the Palestinian revolution, after the conspiracy of evacuating it from Beirut, to the conspiracy of the Reagan plan under the canopy of the Jordanian regime, committed a mistake when he believed that committing another folly in Al-Biqa' would allow him to carry out what he failed to do during the meetings in Amman and some Arab and European capitals. The messages and the continuous contacts between him and the Camp David regime in Egypt prove that 'Arafat is not far from Reagan's plan and other capitulatory plans. For example, during the invasion of Beirut, 'Arafat's contacts were with Cairo and Washington through many channels and not with Damascus despite the fact that the Cairo regime is primarily responsible for the invasion, taking into consideration that Camp David paved the way for this invasion, which came as a natural outcome of the Camp David process. While Syria's heroic Army fought alongside the men of the Palestinian revolution in Beirut and other places, 'Arafat has and is still insisting on being unfair to Syrian blood which flowed on the Lebanese territories during the confrontation of the invaders in defense of Arabism and the Palestinian revolution. 'Arafat has and is still considering the moves of the Egyptian regime and some other Arab regimes, which promoted the first Camp David and are promoting a second Camp David, as being in the interest of the Palestinian question.

Al-Ba'th concludes: Just for information, Syria, which should have adopted a stand on 'Arafat and others after the conspiracy of evacuating the resistance from Beirut due to the irresponsible behavior toward the Palestinian revolution, did not do so out of concern for the revolution's unity. But during recent days and the Fatah crisis, the deviationists attempted to cover their failure, defeat, and short-sightedness in tackling their issues by provoking Syria in order to be able to fragment the Palestinian revolution and to engage Syria, the first defender of this revolution. Those persons are deluded, because the deviationist course, the course of compromise and negotiations with imperialism and Israel, has collapsed on the Palestinian arena. Moreover, all the symbols of this course have been condemned. The recent Syrian measure does not constitute interference in the Palestinian differences, but a necessary measure to prevent the Arabs enemies from destroying the Palestinian revolution and the entire Arab cause.

On the same subject, *Tishrin* says in its "Behind the News" column: Since the signing of the ill-omened Camp David accords and Syria's opposition to them, Syria, due to its national stand, has been exposed to continuous pressures and slander campaigns by the U.S. agents in the region, those who are involved in the capitulatory plans, and those who overtly and

covertly collaborate with the enemy. This pressure and slander increased in the wake of Syria's rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, which after Egypt links Lebanon to the enemy.

Tishrin adds: We recall all these facts not to defend Syria's stands, because by virtue of these stands, Syria represents the basic front of confrontation, the fortress of the liberation movement, and the refuge of strugglers. The Arab masses rally around Syria and the world liberation movement supports it, foremost being the USSR. We are recalling these facts so as to prevent the slanderers from rushing headlong into unwarranted danger; slanderers who insist on starting a battle against Syria which would justify their capitulation and coordination with the Egyptian and the Jordanian regimes, which continue to claim that there is no other way to any solution except through the Reagan plan, the plan which cancels the Palestine question and stabs the Palestinian struggle and the endless convoy of martyrs. Syria will not be a side to any Palestinian internal conflict, but it will wage war against all those who seek to fragment the Palestinian revolution. The strong Palestinian revolution which is cohesively linked to Syria is a force to Syria, Palestine, and to the Arab cause. The Palestinian revolution becomes stronger through democratic dialogue among and within its factions. Syria is encouraging this and is ceaselessly working for it.

Tishrin concludes: The slander by some persons will remain as it is, because Syria's pan-Arab stands in defending the Palestinian question and revolution are more eloquent than any answer. No two strugglers can differ on the U.S. plans in the region. Starting with As-Sadat's camp to camp Al-Jumayyil-Shultz and ending with the Reagan plan, all aim to liquidate the Palestine question and to eliminate the Palestinian people. Syria has and is still opposing all these plans. Is not this vanguard pan-Arab stand a decisive reply to the slanderers and those who cast doubts, who put their hands in the hands of those who support these plans?

Arafat's Leadership Questioned

JN261344 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Political commentary]

[Text] It seems that the United States' battle against the Syrian Arab adherence to the Palestinian cause has become completely exposed. It also seems that the field on which U.S. sides are standing has widened and that in addition to the U.S. and Israeli pretexts, there are the pretexts of the new defeatists in more than one Arab arena.

Since the signing of the Camp David agreements, the United States has been seeking the cancellation of the Syrian stand and dealing a blow to the Arabs' patriotic volition represented by the Syrian stand. Therefore, the United States has been utilizing all its conspiratorial weapons but has failed, thanks to the firmness of the Syrian stand.

Syria does not need the testimony of those who derive pleasure from distortion and those who use their feebleness and involvement in the game of mixing U.S. cards as a style of action to peddle what they have planned. The first Palestinian bullet that ignited the Palestinian Arab people's revolution was fired from this country's soil and was manufactured by its sons. Syria was the only Arab arena in which the Palestinian fedayeen found protection at a time when the fedayeen head was wanted by those who now show vigilant concern over Yasir 'Arafat.

Those supporting the campaign of slander against Syria tried to harm the Syrian Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause. In accordance with their own desires and grudges, they interpreted Syria's decision against 'Arafat as a decision against Palestine, as if the Palestinians have lost their character and as if the blood sacrificed by the sons of this country in defense of the Arab right in Palestine never existed.

All evidence and indications show that Syria was the one that suspended Camp David and defused the Reagan plan. The Americans consider Syria the unsurmountable barrier facing their plotting against the Arab rights in Palestine. Reality proves that all Syria's rights and possessions are being dedicated for the sake of Palestine and that this country's foreign, internal, and food poliices are devoted to the victory of the Arab nation's volition in Palestine.

This country does not need the testimony of those who refused to testify and who found in the U.S. promises and false pledges a refuge for covering up for their cowardice and defeatism.

The blood of hundreds of martyrs of the sons of Syria's Army which was shed on Mount Hermon and over the Lebanese territory was shed to safeguard the Palestinian revolution and its decision-making while the defeatist parties were not concerned about Palestine and its people.

What gives Yasir 'Arafat the right to make this country a rostrum for harming Syria's stand which represents the stand of every Palestinian, every Arab who is loyal toward the cause of his nation in Palestine? When 'Arafat chose to let the Palestinian fedayeen roam in the labyrinth which was prepared for him by the U.S. promises during the siege, Syria endured its wounds to heal the Palestinian wound.

What offense, in 'Arafat's opinion, did Syria commit? He preferred to set the Egyptian regime as his ideal and to accept the false promises of Philip Habib as an introduction to his acceptance of the U.S. plans. The Palestinian revolutionaries, however, delayed his march toward these plans.

The U.S.-Israeli objective is to harm Syria. Shultz, Weinberger and the leaders of Zionist entity have admitted that they are impotent before Syria's principled stand in support of Palestine and its cause.

Because Syria has offered the sustenance of its sons to achieve a strategic balance with the enemy, opened its doors wide to the sons of Palestine, and because Syria has considered its territory as the property of every Arab in the same manner that it is the property of its own sons, this country is not closing its borders and doors to the Palestinian brothers though it has closed them to the one who chose to be led astray and to take with him the Palestinian people whom he claims to lead.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN261527 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya. Talk revolved around the situation in the region.

Al-Asad Receives Saudi Prince, Fahd's Message

JN241330 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1445 today. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, and Sharif al-Fayiz, ambassador at the Saudi Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with some developments in the region. The president asked him to convey a reply message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region and issues of common concern. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus at 1330 today.

President Al-Asad Meets With PFLP Delegation

JN261857 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] At 1600 today President Hafiz al-Asad received a PFLP delegation led by PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash and consisting of Abu 'Ali Mustafa, Abu Mahir al-Yamani, and Abu Nidal Muhammad Muslimah.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Arab region and the dangers posed by the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab homeland. There was complete agreement in viewpoints regarding the assessment made of the situation, developments, and ways to confront dangers.

The president stressed the importance of maintaining the unity of the Palestinian revolution factions and the PLO. He also asserted Syria's continued adherence to its firm stand on relentlessly struggling for the Palestinian Arab people's rights until this people obtains its full rights.

Dr George Habash stressed the importance of Syria's support for the unity of the Palestinian revolution factions and the basic importance of the Palestinian revolution's cohesion with Syria — an indispensable cohesion because Syria is the one which is assuming all the burdens of the battle and the confrontation of the enemy, whether from the point of view of geography or that of stand and action.

Algerian Foreign Minister Visits Damascus

Received by Al-Asad

JN251134 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; ('Abdalkader ben Kas), Algerian Foreign Ministry director general; and Algerian Ambassador in Damascus Salih Boujoumaa.

Ibrahimi delivered a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Departs 26 June

JN261114 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0905 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jun (SANA) — Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at the airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Misbah ad-Dalati, the protocol director at the Foreign Ministry; and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

AL-BA'TH on Habib's Return to Middle East

JN270950 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jun (SANA) — In today's comment, *Al-Ba'th* says: Before the departure of its envoy to the Middle East, the U.S. Administration was careful to stress its commitment to Israel's security and the decisions of the Zionist military institution.

Al-Ba'th adds: Likewise, the Lebanese regime was careful to reiterate its commitment to the U.S. policy in the region. These exchanged commitments are eventually in the interest of the expansionist strategy of the enemy.

Al-Ba'th adds: Habib's return at the head of a U.S. team to the region proves that he came in order to put the contract of submission into effect and to completely supervise the arrangements which the White House has prepared.

Al-Ba'th says: The implementation of the contract of submission necessitates that all obstacles must be removed. Syria, the Lebanese nationalist resistance, and the factions of the Palestinian resistance constitute the most difficult of these obstacles.

The paper adds: To achieve this objective, the hostile forces have adopted the carrot and stick policy. Syria rejects enticements which harm the national and pan-Arab interests, and confronts intimidation because it does not allow anyone to cause harm to the homeland and the nation. Syria, in its rejection and confrontation, did not forget to remove the mines which are

planted here and there, because it has and is still working to purge the Arab arena of the agents.

Al-Ba'th says: The U.S. team's return to the region is accompanied by hasty moves between the agent regimes in Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. The paper stresses that Syria is capable of embarrassing those who covet the Arab territory and of disrupting their conspiratorial designs.

Reportage on Visit by Habib, Draper, Fairbanks

Envoys Arrive 26 June

TA261437 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1428 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 26 Jun (ITIM) — Special U.S. envoy Philip Habib, together with Ambassador Morris Draper and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Fairbanks arrived in Israel this afternoon in Mr Habib's jet plane.

Philip Habib, as is his habit, descended from the plane smiling and greeting his hosts and aides, but refused to say anything to the correspondents waiting for him near the plane's boarding ramp.

Nor did he reply to the question of whether he had brought another message with him from President Ronald Reagan, and all that has been reported is that a meeting with the prime minister in Jerusalem has been arranged for Monday, 27 June.

At the airport, Habib met for a short talk with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and immediately afterward he left for Jerusalem, together with his aides.

The ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport has learned that Habib's plane has been parked in the Ben-Gurion Airport for the last few days and left for Rome in the early hours of this morning, to bring Habib and his aides from there.

Begin-Habib Meet

TA270956 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0950 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The meeting of the prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers with Philip Habib and his aides ended in Jerusalem a short while ago. At this point no details have been given of the meeting which lasted over 2 hours.

Details of Talks

TA271100 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1046 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The United States is now less optimistic than before about the chances to get the Syrians out of Lebanon.

This transpired from the meeting held this morning between the prime minister, the defense and foreign ministers, and U.S. envoy Philip Habib and his aides.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the meeting was devoted to exchanging evaluations of the situation in Lebanon. It was agreed that the United States and Israel would continue their contacts to determine the next steps which should be taken there.

Philip Habib said in the meeting that the United States understands that Israel would act according to its security interests.

Begin Letter to Reagan Expresses 'Concern'

TA241251 Tel Aviv Yedi'ot Aharonot in Hebrew 24 Jun 83 p 1

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin wrote President Reagan that the Syrian refusal to evacuate Lebanon "must cause us concern" because it endangers the agreement with Lebanon.

In a letter sent by Begin 3 days ago, the prime minister stressed that the situation calls for immediate solutions. He added that he agrees to the visit at the White House on 27 July, and hopes that the situation will enable him to hold the visit as planned.

On Monday Begin will meet with envoy Philip Habib, who might bring him a message from Reagan.

Lebanon Asks Israel Not To Withdraw Unilaterally

TA261337 Tel Aviv Ma'Ariv in Hebrew 26 Jun 83 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Prior to U.S. Special Ambassador Philip Habib's arrival in Jerusalem this evening, Lebanon has again appealed to Israel not to carry out a unilateral withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains before the political moves for an evacuation of the foreign forces are exhausted. Lebanon fears that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal would be interpreted by the Syrians as Israeli weakness.

Senior representatives of the Lebanese Administration recently presented their positions in direct contacts with Israeli figures. The Lebanese said they understood Israel's desire to redeploy in view of the security situation, but they expressed the view that such a move, in the near future, could sabotage the slender chance remaining for the U.S. political move to bring about a Syrian evacuation.

Lebanon claims there are signs of an increase in the Saudi pressure on Syria, and that possible additional aid by other Arab countries could provide a chance for a moderating of Damascus' intransigent stand. In contrast to this, Israel and the U.S. Administration assess the chance of a Syrian evacuation carried out willingly as almost minimal.

Jerusalem on Lebanese Request

TA270601 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche met in the last few days with senior persons in Lebanon, among them Dani Sham'un, the son of former President Camille Sham'un. Those persons again asked Israel not to withdraw from Lebanon before the Syrians withdraw from there as well.

IDF Spokesman Denies Attack on Lebanese Positions
TA241855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The Israel army spokesman says he has no information about a reported attack on an Israeli position near An-Nabatiyah, in southern Lebanon. Local residents have said the position, which they called an intelligence center, was attacked last night with handgrenades and automatic weapons. The residents said Israeli forces fired flares and searched the hills to the east of the area where the firing had come from.

Four Incidents in Lebanon, No IDF Casualties
TA251618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Over the last 24 hours fire was directed at IDF forces in Lebanon four times, but no one was hurt. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that two shells were fired last night at an IDF position near 'Ammiq in the eastern sector in Lebanon. Automatic weapons fire by a terrorist squad, which apparently came from the Syrian-controlled area in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region, was directed at another IDF position near Kamid al-Lawz. Two RPG's were fired at an IDF patrol on the coastal road, near Az-Zahrani. In the fourth incident automatic weapons fire was directed from ambush at an IDF vehicle near the town of Jazzin in the eastern sector. Fire was returned at the source of firing. As was said, none of our soldiers was hurt in these incidents. Our correspondent adds that the IDF forces' investigation indicates that the explosion in Sidon today had a criminal background. One Sidon resident was killed in this explosion.

IDF Spokesman 'Cannot Confirm' Attack in Sidon
TA261125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] A REUTER correspondent in Sidon has reported that an IDF vehicle was attacked on the road from Sidon to An-Nabatiyah by light arms fire. The correspondent quoted eyewitnesses but could not give any more details. An IDF spokesman in southern Lebanon said he cannot confirm this report.

The REUTER correspondent also reported shooting near the 'Ayn al Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon.

Sources Comment on POW Exchange Talks
TA250909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The internal rift in the PLO has diverted the organization's attention from the negotiations over exchanges of prisoners with Israel and this is now a low priority with the organization now. This has been reported by sources close to the negotiations to our correspondent Hayim Hecht. At the same time, they stressed that Israel was continuing contacts for the exchanges of prisoners via international elements and has not totally rejected any demand the PLO has put forward on this matter.

The 4,900 detainees in the Ansar camp have recently sent many letters to Lebanese ministers and they are asking them to act at once on the prisoner exchange. The rift in the PLO has caused great tension in the Ansar camp.

More on POW's, Ansar
TA251046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpt] On the fringes of the programs and commentaries marking the first anniversay of the Peace for Galilee campaign, there was a casual mention of the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon. A year of the war also means a year since the establishment of that detention camp. In Ansar, the time factor has a much greater significance, since thousands of prisoners and hundreds of soldiers guarding them are counting every minute there. The 12 months that have passed, in the view of many people in the defense establishment with whom we have spoken, symbolize the mistake that was made by establishing the camp in its current format. Every additional day that passes, in the view of these sources, shortens a fuse leading to a time bomb. The State of Israel is prepared to implement immediate prisoner exchanges. We certainly do want to get rid of this wart called Ansar, we were told by senior sources; but our main interest, of course, is our prisoners. Israel has not completely rejected any PLO demand. We are prepared to conclude the issue with them at once, in another 10 minutes, as the senior sources phrased it, but for the moment there is nobody with whom to speak. While the Syrians are shooting at 'Arafat from behind and his own personnel are shooting at him from in front, the issue of prisoner exchanges is not top priority for them. One of the leaders of the Ansar detainees told us: We are now the prisoners of the PLO.

This is Hayim Hecht: Even before the war, the defense establishment prepared itself for the possibility that the IDF would arrest thousands of terrorists in Lebanon. That was an unavoidable result of the war to purge southern Lebanon of the terrorist organization's absolute rule. The highest estimates mentioned 4,000 detainees. Nobody imagined that during the war we would have 12,000 prisoners, of whom 9,000 would be in a detention camp. Nine thousand people in one camp is an unprecedented mistake, an Israeli officer told us. His friend said: This is a human time bomb. But both of them shrugged their shoulders as though apologizing: We were sure that any minute the whole thing would be over. The security services interrogations system was not built to cope with such a great number of detainees. The military attorney's office was forced, because of this, to use the appeals committees in the camp after only 4 months. If there was a barometer to measure the pressure and tensions of the Ansar detainees, that tool, in the view of the camp's commanders, would show that the severe mental state of the people springs mostly from a feeling of uncertainty about their future. The detention conditions are something marginal. Even the leaders of the detainees will tell you: On this matter, we have no complaints. What will happen to us? That is the one and only question that disturbs their rest. The most dangerous situation, in the view of the camp's commanders, is that the detainees will come to believe that they have nothing to lose.

PLO Confirms POW Suffered Breakdown

TA270539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The spokesman for Ahmad Jibril's organization said last night in Damascus that the Israeli prisoner, Nisim Salem, was hospitalized in the past because of nerve problems. He did not say when this hospitalization took place. The terrorists' spokesman went on to say that Nisim Salem suffered from depression and memory problems. Now he is under the care of four expert psychiatrists.

Poll Shows Drop in Support for Begin, Aridor

TA261055 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 26 Jun 83 p 1

[PORI poll]

[Text] During the month of June there was a drop in the support for the Likud ministers, excluding Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The sharpest drop was noted in the support for Prime Minister Menahem Begin. These are the results from a national public opinion poll conducted by the PORI Institute for *Ha'aretz*.

The percentage of those satisfied with Begin decreased by 9.8 percent, from 54.5 percent in April (*Ha,aretz* 8 June 83) to 44.7 percent now.

The percentage of those satisfied with Yoram Aridor as minister of finance dropped to only 19.4 percent as opposed to 53.5 percent who are dissatisfied with him and 20.1 percent who are "more or less satisfied with him." (In April 25.8 percent were satisfied and 44.7 percent were dissatisfied with him.) This is the lowest popularity rating registered for the finance minister since he took office and nearly equals the lowest popularity rating registered, in December 1980, for former Finance Minister Yig'al Horowitz (19.2 percent) before he resigned.

The percentage of those supporting Yitzhaq Shamir as foreign minister decreased by 4.2 percent, from 52.5 percent in April to 48.3 percent now.

The popularity of Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, which was on the increase since the beginning of the year also decreased by 6.4 percent, from 60.9 percent in April to 54.5 now.

Among the Likud ministers, only Defense Minister Moshe Arens increased his popularity. Some 52.5 percent are satisfied with him now as compared with 48.5 percent in April.

The popularity of the National Religious Party ministers also decreased. Some 30.5 percent (as compared to 39.4 percent in April) were satisfied with Yosef Burg as minister of the interior, religious affairs, and police and 66.9 percent [as compared to 71.5 percent in April] were satisfied with Zvulun Hammer as minister of education and culture.

The poll included a nationwide representative sample of 1,200 people who were privately interviewed.

Yoram Aridor Reportedly Not To Resign

TA270537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The finance minister does not intend to resign. This was reported last night by political figures after talking to Yoram Aridor. These figures told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that the looking around for possible heirs is nothing but a political exercise against the background of the internal struggles in the Herut Movement. 'Ezer Weizman and David Levi had been mentioned as possible replacements for the finance minister.

MAPAM Votes To Continue in the Alignment

TA260819 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 26 Jun 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — Once again, MAPAM has failed to terminate the alignment with Labour, although this time it came closer than ever in its past.

By only 17 votes, the MAPAM convention decided early yesterday afternoon to continue in the Alignment, with 515 voting to stay in the Alignment and 498 voting against it.

The close vote was a defeat for the party leadership, with all four secretaries — Victor Shemtov, Chaika Grossman, Gad Yatziv and Binyamin Yas'ur — sponsoring a resolution to replace the present Alignment by a much looser alliance, which would have meant separate Knesset factions for Labour and MAPAM.

They were opposed by the party's two elder statesmen — Me'ir Ya'ari and Ya'aqov Hazan — who once more proved their ability to sway party opinion against the odds.

Peres Welcomes MAPAM Decision

TA251937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres expressed satisfaction with the decision of the MAPAM convention. In his opinion, the Alignment should invest its energy in rebuilding the country and not in idle arguments.

MAPAM's young guard has called on MAPAM Secretary Victor Shemtov to revoke his decision not to continue in his position as the party's secretary. The MAPAM young guard said this miserable organizational decision should not be considered a reason for leaving one's post. In the afternoon MAPAM decided, by a small majority, not to secede from the Alignment.

West Bank Tension Increases; Al-Asad Denounced

TA260639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Public figures and institutions in the West Bank have sharply denounced 'Arafat's explusion from Syria amid

increasing fear about the fate of Fatah and the Palestinians under Syrian control in lebanon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports:

[Gus — live] 'Arafat's expulsion from Damascus provoked a new wave of reactions in the territories against Al-Asad and in support of the PLO leader. The supporters' camp has been joined by the deposed mayor of Nabulus, Bassam ash-Shak'ah. Although he has refrainedfrom denouncing Al-Asad even now, he calls on him to strive to strengthen Palestinian unity. We are all on the side of our brother commander, Yasir 'Arafat — Ash-Shak'ah writes in an article in *Al-Fajr* this morning.

Similar reactions have been voiced by personalities and institutions in the territories, both in advertisements in the press and in gatherings and rallies organized by PLO supporters. Hundreds of youths gathered on Temple Mount at the end of prayers on Friday, some carrying pictures of 'Arafat, and chanted slogans supporting him and his leadership. The preacher, Shaykh Akram as-Sabri, called for maintaining Fatah's unity.

The tension in the territories in the wake of the escalation between the PLO and Syria is so great that last night the Jerusalem mufti, Shaykh Sa'd ad-Din al-'Alami, issued a futwa - a formal legal opinion in Islamic law — permitting the shedding of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's blood. Al-Asad is a criminal who has murdered Muslims and Palestinians, Shaykh al-'Alami told me last night, and therefore he deserves the sentence of a criminal and he may be killed and whoever does that would be considered a (shahid), a person dying in a holy war for the sake of God. Al-'Alami used very stkong words to denounce Al-Asad and called him an American agent heeding the orders of his masters.

As reports from Lebanon about the threat of an armed struggle between Syria and Fatah units continue to come in, concern in the territories rises. Fears about Fatah's political future are now coupled with apprehension about the physical well-being of those Palestinians under Syrian rule. A mayor in the territories told me last night: The situation resembles events on the eve of the massacre at Tall az-Za'tar, a massacre perpetrated jointly by the Syrians and the Phalangists during the civil war in Lebanon.

EEC, Israel Sign Economic Aid Agreement 24 June

TA241423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] An agreement on economic aid between Israel and the EEC was signed in Brussels at noon. The EEC will grant Israel a credit of $40 million for 5 years. Our correspondent Daniyel Dagan reports that the signing of the agreement was made possible after the EEC leaders decided at the beginning of the week to cancel the sanctions they had imposed on Israel in the wake of the Lebanese war.

OAU Chairman Mengistu Sends Messages on Chad

EA251907 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam has sent messages regarding developments in Chad to the presidents of Chad, Sudan, and Libya, and to members of the league of the 19th OAU conference. In his capacity as current OAU chairman, Comrade Mengistu expressed concern about the grave situation unfolding in Chad.

This was disclosed in Addis Ababa today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Comrade Mengistu appealed to all parties concerned to exercise maximum restraint in the interests of peace and stability in the region. He also called on all powers to refrain from intervening in the matter, as such intervention would only aggravate the already tense situation in the area.

Reportage on Tripartite Summit in Zaire

Joint Communique Issued

MB261036 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday visited the neighboring Republic of Zaire, where he, together with Presidents Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, took part in a tripartite meeting. At the end of the meeting involving the three heads of state, a joint communique was issued, which we now read:

1. The second meeting of the tripartite summit involving Zambia, Angola, and Zaire took place in Lubumbashi on 25 June 1983.

2. The talks held by the three heads of state centered on security along the borders of the three countries; the problem of refugees in light of the general amnesty law issued by Zaire; cooperation among the three countries, particularly the improvement of direct communications between Zambia, Angola, and Zaire; the rehabilitation of the Benguela Railway; and problems connected to the movement of people and goods.

3. The three heads of state agreed to meet more often to review problems of common interest.

4. The heads of state of Zambia and Zaire reaffirmed their condemnation of the racist regime of Pretoria, which continues to occupy Angolan territory, and again pledged their total support for the Government of the People's Republic of Angola.

5. The three heads of state reiterated their support for the struggle of liberation being waged by SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, to achieve independence.

6. The talks held by the three heads of state took place in a climate of fraternity, solidarity, and mutual understanding.

7. The heads of state of Angola and Zambia expressed their gratitude to Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founder and president of the MPR and president of the Republic of Zaire, for the fraternal and warm welcome, as well as the good hospitality, accorded them during their stay in Lubumbashi.

Lubumbashi, 25 June 1983.

We have just read you a joint communique issued at the end of the tripartite summit meeting involving Angola, Zambia, and Zaire.

Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos was accompanied during yesterday's visit to the Republic of Zaire by Comrades Juliao Mateus Paulo Dino Matrosse, member of the party Political Bureau and minister of state security, and by Paulo Jorge, member of the party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs.

Kaunda, Dos Santos Depart

AB261213 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Excerpt] Presidents Kaunda of Zambia and Dos Santos of Angola left Lubumbashi late yesterday afternoon for their respective countries at the end of talks with their Zairian counterpart, Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and solidarity. As a result, cooperation between the three countries has been reinvigorated.

ALGERIA

Ibrahimi Meets Syria's Al-Asad, Palestinians

LD241411 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid sent the foreign affairs minister, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, to Damascus where he reportedly met President Hafiz al-Asad and the Palestinian leaders.

Minister Returns 26 June

LD262338 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Algiers yesterday afternoon [26 June] from Damascus after a 48-hour visit during which he was received as the personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party, by President Hafiz al-Asad. He also had talks with a number of leaders of the Palestinian revolution.

On leaving Damascus he was seen off by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

LIBYA

Jamahiriyah 'Completely Neutral' Toward Chad

LD250753 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Paris 25 Jun (JANA) — The Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Paris has stressed that Jamahiriyah is completely neutral towards the struggle now taking place in Chad; however it will find itself forced to intervene if any outside parties attempted to on their part to intervene in Chad.

A statement distributed to journalists yesterday at the press conference held by the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Paris said that the battles currently taking place in Chad are between Chadian opposing groups and that Libya has not intervened at all in these battles.

It stressed that the battles are taking place in regions more than 1,000 km from the southern border of the Jamahiriyah with Chad and any international observers could confirm for himself what is taking place inside Chad. The People's Bureau, in a statement accused the Reagan Administration of working to internationalize the situation in Chad.

It stated that the American Administration is involved militarily, politically and economically in Africa and that we accuse the Reagan Administration of internationalizing the Chad problem and confirm that Chad's independence and security are linked to the security and stability of the Jamahiriyah.

It pointed out that there are other parties, neighbors of Chad, involved in what is happening in Chad, foremost the regime of the lackey Numayri.

AFP: Diplomat Claims Neutrality

AB241738 Paris AFP in French 1641 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (AFP) — Said Hafiana, head of the Libyan mission in Paris, proclaimed the Jamahiriyah's "neutrality" in the Chadian conflict today but indicated that his country "reserved the right to intervene in the event of evidence of any foreign interference."

At a press conference the Libyan diplomat also held the view that France would not intervene militarily in Chad "because of the present state of relations between France and Libya." He further said that contacts are in progress between Paris and Tripoli concerning Chad.

Rejecting the recent "warnings" issued by France and the United States as "unacceptable," Mr Hafiana accused Washington of trying to "destabilize Africa in order to offset France's influence on the African Continent."

He further accused "certain African states" of "blackmailing" France by threatening to turn to the United States if France refused to intervene in Chad.

He expressed the view that the "security and stability of Chad are bound together." Mr Hafiana proclaimed his support of Mr Goukouni's Transitional National Union Government which he considers the "legitimate government of Chad."

He said the Libyan Air Force is not taking part in the fighting in Chad but said "some Chadian neighbors such as Sudan could possibly intervene directly by dispatching troops and equipment."

Radio Reports Goukouni Forces Winning in Chad

LD252345 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 25

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Imperialist and reactionary propaganda instruments are making a fuss these days and brewing up a storm in a suspicious manner over what they slanderously and insidiously call Libyan military intervention in Chad. The Black House threatens and warns; Paris claims it will not stand idle; the heir to the buried As-Sadat lies when he claims that he has definite information about Libyan intervention in Chad; and the tail in Khartoum complains to the OAU and sobs unashamedly when he claims that danger threatens the agent rebel Hissein Habre at the hands of Libyan forces.

What is this hue and cry that is coming in unison from these capitals about an alleged Libyan intervention in Chad? Those familiar with the methods of imperialism and its reactionary instruments in the region cannot be ignorant at all of the objectives behind this storm of allegations. As the Arab proverb goes, "there is more to it than meets the eye!" The observer of developments in Chad will doubtless understand the brilliant victories being scored by the forces of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] led by Goukouni Oueddei against

the gangs of the agent rebel Hissein Habre, which are being dealt deadly blows and are now very close to inevitable, decisive defeat. The forces of the legitimate GUNT scored a decisive victory yesterday that will drastically change the fate of battle. Their recovery of the strategic town of Largeau, a matter that heralds the imminent end of the agent rebel Hissein Habre, who rules over the Chadian people by force and inflicts on them all manner of terror and torture.

These brilliant victories of the legitimate Chadian GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei scare the imperialist and reactionary forces in the region. They see their protege, the agent rebel Hissein Habre, collapsing under the decisive blows of the people. Thus, it was natural for those imperialist and reactionary forces to resort to a lie. They usually do when conditions turn against them — the danger from Libya and an alleged Libyan military intervention in Chad.

Imperialist and reactionary forces strive to achieve, through their fabricated lie about a Libyan military interference in Chad, several political objectives: First, they attempt to belittle the significance of the GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei and the wide popular support it enjoys among the Chadian masses, to make those brilliant victories appear as though they were the result of external forces and not that of the Chadian people led by its GUNT. Here is the U.S. State Department claiming in a suspicious statement that the GUNT's forces would not have been able to take control of Largeau, if it not been for the assistance received from the Libyan forces. This confirms that the imperialist and the reactionary forces want to bury the struggle and victories of the Chadian people. Second, the imperialist and reactionary forces with their artificial fuss about Libyan interference in Chad aim at preparing world and African public opinion for their military interventin in Chad to consolidate the regime of the rebel Hissein Habre, which is collapsing under the blows of the forces of the legitimate GUNT, on the pretext of saving the Chadian people from the alleged Libyan danger.

The logic of the imperialist and reactionary forces only brings ridicule and pity. When the gangs of the rebel Hissein Habre used to train in the Sudan and receive the most modern weapons from America and the Egyptian and the Sudanese regimes, and when they used to carry out acts of murder, plunder, and destruction, until they usurped the authority of the legitimate GUNT, the imperialist and reactionary propaganda instruments were as silent as a cemetery and said nothing about foreign interference in Chad. They considered, instead, the actions of the forces of rebel Habre praiseworthy. But, when the forces of the legitimate GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei struggle to recover legitimate authority and achieve one victory after another thanks to the support of the Chadian people, this is considered in the eyes of the imperialist and the reactionary forces Libyan interference and an act of aggression. What is this logic? By God, this is a clear attempt to make fools of people.

The whole world knows that the Jamahiriyah is not interfering in Chad, directly or indirectly, and that it has no hand in the fierce battles raging between the GUNT's forces and the gangs of rebel Hissein Habre. As all the facts in the battlefield confirm, the GUNT's forces are completely capable, thanks to their wide popular support, of settling the conflict and decisively defeating the gangs of the rebel Habre without Libyan or non-Libyan forces fighting alongside them. GUNT led by Goukouni Oueddei is the true representative of the Chadian people in accordance with the Lagos and other African agreements that confirm its absolute legitimacy. As to the rebel Hissein Habre, who was crowned by the imperialist forces in the region and their agents, he represents only himself and the gang which with him is ruling the Chadian people by force. Those who support this agent rebel and prolong his life in a usurped authority only delay the return of stability, legitimacy, and normal life in Chad, this African country which has suffered so much.

The Jamahiriyah warns those who play with fire that these flames will inevitably burn their fingers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Letter From Khomeyni

LD261924 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 16, June 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received a letter of gratitude and esteem from Imam Khomeyni in response to a recent letter sent by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

The imam expressed deep satisfaction with the contents of the leader's letter which reveal good intentions and brotherly feelings, love of justice for all the Muslim nations and defence of the people's freedom and independence.

He added that despite international propaganda campaigns the Iranian Islamic Republic is eager to help all the Muslim countries and does not intend to launch any aggression against any country, especially its Muslim neighbours but will not be subjected to aggression and injustice.

Iran has been forced into war with Iraq when the Iraqi regime carried out liquidation, destruction and murder campaigns in the Iranian Republic and the Iranian position has been in self defence only, the letter said.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Message

LD241944 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jun (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received Ahmed Guedira, special envoy of the Moroccan king, who handed the leader a message from Hassan II, King of Morocco.

JANA: 'Arafat Forces Fire at Palestinian Demonstration

LD251107 Tripoli JANA in English 0834 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Damascus, Ramadan 15, June 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A responsible source from the information department of the new Fatah revolutionary movement said that which took place at Al Yarmuk Palestinian camp wounding 7 citizens.

The demonstrators called for the downfall of the inefficient leadership led by 'Arafat.

SUDAN

Egypt's Ghali Arrives, Makes Statement

JN261816 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Khartoum, June, 26, (SUNA) — Egyptian State Minister for External Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali arrive here today on the first leg of a tour of Sudan, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Chad, Congo, and Rwanda during which he will deliver messages from President Mubarak to heads of these states.

Dr. Ghali said Ndjamena will be given a priority in this tour to express support of the existing government and to consolidate it diplomatically in the international forums.

About the situation in Chad after the battle of Faya Largeau Dr. Ghali expressed hopes that all conflicts would be settled peacefully.

On the Palestinian situation Dr. Ghali voiced hope that all parts of the Palestinian Liberation Organization "PLO" would gather their efforts to preserve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

About the probability of the convening of an Arab summit Ghali said Egypt supports any positive bid to consolidate the Arab ranks Dr . Ghali state that the Egyptian and Sudanese diplomacies are carrying continuous contacts with the United States for finding a perceful settlement to the Middle East problem.

Ghali will leave for Ndjamena tomorrow, Monday.

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Sends Greetings to 'Arafat

LD251703 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba held a working session in his office in the Presidential Palace in Carthage with Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister, who stated after the meeting: His excellency the president has commissioned me to convey his greetings to Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, also the feelings of sympathy and solidarity of Tunisia — the president, government, and people — with the Palestinian revolution during the hard times we are passing through.

The prime minister then talked to Abu 'Ammar in the VIP lounge at Tunis-Carthage international airport before the departure of the Palestinian leader to Prague.

Abu 'Ammar told TAP that he had discussed with Mohamed Mzali the situation in the light of recent developments, especially the regretable events in the region of (Masna') and (?Majd al-Manjar) He added that Mohamed Mzali has conveyed to him the greetings of President Habib Bourguiba and his firm stand by the Palestinian people.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS on Moroccan Forces Actions Against Civilians

LD251212 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Hawza, 25 Jun (APS) — "Convinced of the total failure of their colonial expedition in our country, especially after the clear position taken by the OAU as concerns our just cause, the Moroccan aggression forces started in June 11 a wide campaign of retaliation against our civil populations through standard methods of kidnapping then assassination," a communique of the Sahrawi Red Crescent released yesterday in Hawza indicated.

Before this situation of terror that our civil populations are undergoing within the occupied territories, we call the international consciousness, humanitarian organizations and progressive peace and justice loving forces to help our citizens [word indistinct] Hassan II's criminal troops, and denounced the criminal acts and brutality [words indistinct].

ETHIOPIA

Nicu Ceausescu Attends Youth Meeting, Sees Wolde

AU211817 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1740 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] Addis-Ababa, (AGERPRES) 21 Jun — On June 21, Nicu Ceausescu, secretary of the CC of the UCY [Union of Communist Youth], chairman of the UN Consultative Committee for the International Youth Year (IYY), now in Ethiopia to attend the African regional meeting devoted to the IYY, had an interview with Goshu Wolde, Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs [title as received], member of the CC of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia [COPWE].

During the talk, reference was made to the fine political relations between Romania and Ethiopia, and stress was laid on the need and the existing possibilities to further develop and diversify their relations, especially on an economic plane.

Aspects of the current international situation were also approach ed.

In that context, emphasis was placed on the role the youth should play in and the contribution it should make to the settlement of the major questions facing mankind.

KENYA

President Moi Appeals for Unity, Peace

EA262201 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today called for total commitment to the development of the country by all leaders, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds and urged all leaders to rebuke those among themselves who were engaged in social evils. President Moi declared that Kenya did not want to see bloodshed as was the case in many African countries, but wanted the leaders to work in unity for the country's development. He reminded all leaders that what wananchi wanted was maximum cooperation among themselves and not disagreement.

President Moi was addressing a delegation from Turkana District KANU chairman, who is also an assistant minister for cooperative development, Mr Peter Ejore, and included the MP for Turkana South, Mr Peter Angelei, and the Turkana East MP, Mr Japhet Ekidor. [sentence as heard]

President Moi appealed to all Kenyans to publicly denounce any persons who were out to cause chaos in the country. He cautioned all those aspiring for electoral offices in the forthcoming September general elections against holding night meetings. He instructed the provincial administration to be on the lookout for people who hold such meetings and deal with them accordingly.

The president appealed to the residents of Turkana District and neighbouring districts to stop cattle-rustling and live in harmony. He promised to the residents of the district that he would instruct the Kenya Commercial Bank to open a branch in Lodwar Town as soon as possible. The district KANU chairman, Mr Ejore, assured President Moi that all Turkana people were loyal to him and would defend the country against any (?person). He said the wananchi in Turkana District would not hesitate to expose any person or persons whose actions were not in the interests of peace.

Mr Ejore thanked the government for initiating various development projects in the district. He further said the Turkana people were grateful to the government for increasing the number of primary school teachers born in the district from 125 in 1982 to 245 this year.

Kenya Elected ILO Chairman for 1983-1984

EA262111 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Kenya has been elected the 1983/84 chairman of the International Labor Organization, ILO, as the minister for labor, Mr Titus Mbathi, will lead the organization's policymaking body.

This was revealed by the minister himself when he addressed a press conference at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on his return from Geneva, where he attended a conference hosted by ILO.

During the meeting's deliberations, Mr Mbathi said the participants underscored the need to step up employment and vocational rehabilitation of the disabled persons. The minister explained that the meeting resolved that the organization's 280,000,000 dollars budget for the next 2 years be utilized to increasing employment in developing countries. Mr Mbathi went on to say that the meeting also discussed world peace as well as the promotion of employment in the world.

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Reports DFSS Actions Against Army

Attack at Dusa Mareb

LD242321 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Commando units of the Ninth General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces launched a secret mission against the headquarters of the 21st Division of the Barre loyalist forces, during which the headquarters radio communication sets were seized and several officers and men of the demoralized Barre forces were killed.

Reports reaching us from the Ninth General Aynanshe Division state: The fighters launched the mission against the 21st Division of the Barre loyalist forces at Dusa Mareb, the regional capital of Ghel Gudut region, on 22 June 1983.

The reports add that following this action by the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces, the forces loyal to Barre are in total confusion and are amazed at the quick and daring action of the DFSS fighters. The report also notes that the 21st Division of the Somali forces has lost contact with Mogadishu and other regions of the country. The 21st Division of the Barre loyalist forces has set up roadblocks on all roads leading into and out of the region in an attempt to recover the lost equipment.

The commando units of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces returned safely to their base.

Attacks in Mudugh Region

EA252057 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The Ninth General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front of the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces launched attacks against the villages of (Bai La) and (Burar) in Mudugh region, central Somalia, on the 22d of this month, killing more than 80 officers and men and wounding many others. The killed and wounded soldiers are from the 9th and 27th Battalions of the 9th Division of the loyalist forces of Barre's regime.

The report adds that nearly three companies of the crushed division have fled for their lives into the countryside following this action by the DFSS fighters.

The DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces razed the bases of the 9th and 27th Battalions of the Barre loyalist forces, capturing very large quantities of arms and ammunition.

CAMEROON

President Biya Invited To Visit Congo

AB241926 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] President Paul Biya has been invited to visit the People's Republic of the Congo. This was contained in a message today from Congolese President Sassou-Nguesso to President Paul Biya. The special Congolese envoy, Basile Ikouebe, told Radio Cameroon that he was the bearer of other special messages from President Sassou-Nguesso which he did not disclose.

About the situation in Chad, the Congolese envoy said only a political solution based on national reconciliation could establish peace in that war-torn country.

CHAD

More Coverage on Fighting Near Faya-Largeau

Habre Sends Messages to UN

AB241620 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] United Nations, New York, June 24 (AFP) — Chad's head of state Hissein Habre has sent messages to U.N. Security Council President Elleck Mashingaidze of Zimbabwe about the situation in his country, a Chadian source here said.

The messages draw attention to "the Libyan aggression which is becoming increasingly clear in northern Chad," the source said.

The source added that the government in Ndjamena does not however for the present envisage involving the Security Council over the situation at the northern town of Faya-Largeau, where fighting began yesterday between Habre government forces and those of ex-President Goukouni Oueddei. This was because a permanent committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been asked to consider a dispute between Chad and Libya over territory known as the Aouzou Strip on their common border.

U.S. Government, Sudanese and Habre sources say that the forces of Mr Goukouni, whom Mr Habre ousted last June, have Libyan air support in the present conflict.

GUNT Claims Complete Control

AB241405 Paris AFP in French 1336 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (AFP) — The spokesman of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] announced in Paris on Friday that Faya-Largeau has been "completely under the control" of Goukouni Oueddei's forces since 1000 (0900 GMT) Friday and that the garrison which was protecting the town has lost 600 men.

Adoum Yacoub, Goukouni Oueddei's spokesman, explained that the two columns that seized the capital of Chad's northern region were under the command of Generals Djogo and Dagache.

"We were on the defensive until Thursday and eventually launched the offensive because our troops had reached a sufficient degree of preparedness to do so without any foreign support."

In this connection, Adoum Yacoub again denied, in contrast to the reports of the authorities in Ndjamena, that the GUNT had received any Libyan air support.

Government Confirms Faya-Largeau Lost

AB250825 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 25 Jun 83

By Jean-Claude Cahpon

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, Jun 25 (Afp) — The Chadian Government of President Hissein Habre today confirmed the fall of the main northern town of Faya-Largeau to forces led by Libyan backed former President Goukouni Oueddei, amid conflicting reports concerning Libya's role.

The fall had earlier been reported in a broadcast monitored in the Togolese capital, Lome, by Goukouni forces. The report said that 600 soldiers of Mr. Habre had been killed in the fighting.

Chad's foreign minister, Idriss Miskine, charged yesterday that Libyan planes had bombarded Habre government positions.

Early today in Paris, Chadian Charge d'Affaires Ahmad Allam-Mi said government forces evacuated the town during the night after heavy fighting yesterday against Libyan regular forces and units of its Islamic Legion. But the Chadian defence minister, Rotouang Yoma, said in an interview on an African radio station last night that the Libyan presence had not yet been confirmed.

Mr. Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) denied that Libyan planes were involved in the attack on Faya-Largeau, about 1,000 kms (650 miles) north of here.

Observers commented that the fall of Faya-Largeau is a serious blow for Mr. Habre, whose forces seized the Chadian capital on June 7 last year. They said it remained to be seen whether Mr. Goukouni would press his advantage or would mark time before a further offensive.

According to reports reaching here today, it appeared that Mr. Goukouni's troops surrounded Faya-Largeau, situated in a palm grove 80 kms (50 miles) long and 10 kms (6 miles) wide on the main road to Ndjamena, at midday yesterday. The GUNT troops split into two main columns and attacked the town from east and west, concentrating particularly on the eastern side where the airfield is situated. The Chadian Government troops retreated towards the west, where today they were still reportedly holding the Tamoul area.

There was uncertainty about the homogeneity within Mr. Habre's army, which comprises troops of his Armed Forces of the North (FAN) and soldiers from the south who had opposed Mr. Habre until he seized control of Ndjamena.

Radio contact between the capital and Faya-Largeau had broken down by yesterday afternoon, according to sources here.

A Chadian military source said that the size of the offensive forced the Chadian Army to spread out, which considerably weakened its defences. The sources added that Mr. Habre's forces had been bombarded by artillery since Thursday.

The Chadian authorities said their troops were also hampered by the disparity between the weaponry of Mr. Goukouni's troops and that of the Chadian Army.

Habre on Military Situation

AB271208 Paris AFP in French 1130 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 27 Jun (AFP) — President Hissein Habre today declared during an interview in Ndjamena with Radio Monte Carlo and AFP that "Chad will continue fighting, alone or with the aid of its friends." Mr Habre added that he "could not tell what the outcome of the struggle will be."

On the military operations, he explained that "following the fall of Faya-Largeau, the National Armed Forces of Chad [FAN] pulled back to the zone of Koro Toro and Salal." He added that "they are taking all necessary measures to strengthen that zone and to try to check any move by the enemy."

President Habre also noted that this development was a predictable one. "We had known for a long time that Faya-Largeau was the target, that preparations were underway in the Tibesti, and that activities between Libya and the occupied territories in Chad were particularly intense." "What struck us most this time is the importance of the heavy weapons and the formidable logistics" at the disposal of Goukouni Oueddei's troops.

President Habre further stressed the need to "demystify things a bit." "People keep talking about Goukouni's army, but they lose sight of the fact that Goukouni left Ndjamena with his suitcase, crossing the Chari River in great haste." He added that the army was "set up by the Tripoli regime from the very beginning, using purely Libyan elements and Chadians enrolled by force, as well as soldiers coming either from Nigeria or from anywhere else in Africa and sent to Tripoli via Benin." "I have evidence of this," he emphasized.

Concerning Chad's needs, particularly those in the military sphere, Mr Habre stated: "We have huge needs. At present, our problem is that of armaments. We have enough fighters, but our Army has an enormous logistics problem and its needs are truly very great."

Habre Forces Reportedly Retreat

NC251920 Paris AFP in English 1908 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, June 25 (AFP) — Forces of Chad's President Hissein Habre which had withdrawn to the east of Faya-Largeau after the fall of the northern town yesterday today retreated, a military command source here said.

The opposing forces of ex-President Goukouni Oueddei had not by this evening pursued the Habre men, the source added. The source said however that numerous small groups of Mr Habre's Chadian National Armed Forces (FAN) remained dispersed in Faya-Largeau's large palm grove and these would have to make their way south of their own means.

The military command also said that another larger group, numbering possibly several hundred, had fled to high ground at Youro, northeast of the palm grove, and those men would also have to try to move south.

The main body of the Habre government's forces, who fell back on Amoul, west of Faya-Largeau, and who have been joined by the first reinforcements to arrive and make contact, had meanwhile reached Korotoro, 200 kms (125 miles) south.

A column carrying those wounded in the first fighting was at the same time trying to reach Moussoro, more than 700 kms (about 450 miles) south on the road to Ndjamena, passing through Salal.

According to a general evacuation order, it is at Moussoro, some 250 kms (about 160 miles) north of Ndjamena, that the various FAN forces are supposed to regroup, the source said.

Goukouni Forces Moving East

AB270608 Paris AFP in English 0403 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, June 27 (AFP) — Two columns of ousted President Goukouni Oueddei's Libyan-backed troops were spotted Sunday in eastern Chad heading toward traditional strongholds of President Hissein Habre's forces in the Abeche region, informed sources said here. Observers believed they also would try to cut the highway to Sudan.

The first column — about 800 troops — was reported early Sunday moving east from Faya-Largeau, the strategic town in northern Chad captured Friday by Goukouni troops. The second group was seen moving along Chad's border with Sudan later in the day.

Reportage on Visit of French Minister Nucci

Arrives 26 June

AB261105 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, June 26 (AFP) — French Foreign Aid Minister Christian Nucci flew into this Chadian capital today, only hours after the fall of the strategically important town of Faya-Largeau in northern Chad to the forces of ousted President Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr Nucci arrived from Brazzaville, capital of the Congo, where he had spent three days as part of a tour of Central Africa following French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Cameroon a week ago.

Last week the French Government warned that it would not be "indifferent" to the intervention of Libyan troops on the side of Mr Goukouni.

The Ndjamena government of Hissein Habre, who ousted Mr Goukouni from the capital a year ago, has alleged Libya was actively supporting the rebels, but this has been denied by representatives of both Libya and Mr Goukouni.

Meets President Habre

LD261342 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] Christian Nucci [minister delegate to external relations minister for cooperation and development] arrived in Chad less than 48 hours after the capture of Faya-Largeau by Goukouni's Libyan-backed rebels. The minister delegate for cooperation arrived this morning in Ndjamena, the capital of Chad, where he is currently holding talks with President Hissein Habre. Although any intervention in Chad by a French expeditionary corps seems thus far to have been ruled out, Paris could, however, supply aid in the form of equipment and ammunition. Christian Nucci's presence in Chad, though, does serve as a demonstration of the French Government's concern over the situation developing there.

Assures Habre of Support

LD270857 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] France will react if Chad's stability is threatened. Christian Nucci, the French cooperation minister currently in Ndjamena, has assured President Hissein Habre of Paris' support following the fall of the strategic town of Faya-Largeau to the partisans of Goukouni Oueddei. Libya, which is helping the rebel forces, said this morning that the United States is preparing to intervene in Chad. This might be a sign that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi needs an excuse to cross the Chadian border and strike a death blow to Hissein Habre's regime.

Egyptian Minister of State Arrives in Ndjamena

AB271146 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Ndjamena, June 27 (AFP) — The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Butrus Ghali, arrived today with a message for President Hissein Habre from his Egyptian counterpart, Husni Mubarak.

Mr. Ghali declined comment. But yesterday, while visiting Khartoum, he said he was going to Chad to show "the entire support of Egypt for the Chadian Government of Mr Hissein Habre." Egypt's support followed a strong statement of backing from France, which is reportedly sending military supplies to Mr. Habre's regime.

Mr. Habre is facing a stiff challenge from his longtime rival, Goukouni Oueddei, whose Libyan-backed troops took over the town of Faya-Largeau on Saturday.

It was reported yesterday that those troops are now marching on the key eastern town of Abeche, where a large government garrison is posted.

Mr. Habre took power from Mr. Goukouni a year ago, when his forces overran Ndjamena.

BENIN

President Addresses Party Central Committee

AB242150 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Speech by President Mathieu Kerekou at the closing ceremony of the extraordinary session of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin in Cotonou on 24 June 1983 — recorded]

[Text] Comrade members of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin [PRPB]: We have just completed the deliberations of the extraordinary session of our vanguard party's Central Committee. The deliberations which began on 20 June 1983 were essentially devoted to a study of the critical report on the first 3 years of enforcement of our country's fundamental law. After 4 days of thorough discussion, followed by sound and productive debate, all in an atmosphere marked by a sharp sense of responsibility, we achieved positive and extremely valuable results on all the points discussed. For me, these results are yet another decisive contribution of high quality to the diligent and adequate implementation of the transitional measures. These efforts come before the renewal of the mandates of the people's commissioners to the Revolutionary National Assembly [ANR] and of the president of the republic, officers whose term was extended by 18 months during the first mandate.

As a matter of fact, thanks to the clear and precise directives which we drafted and adopted during the session now coming to an end, the Permanent Committee of the ANR will now be able to carry out the important task of reviewing our country's fundamental law on the basis of the experience acquired by our people, our revolutionary party and state since 4 February 1980.

Comrade members of the Central Committee, we have just discharged a major duty in the history of the revolutionary process launched on 26 October 1972 to free our country.

While I extend my warmest thanks to you for making yourselves available at all times during our meeting and for the high sense of responsibility you displayed throughout the deliberations, I must stress that revision of our country's fundamental law requires the conscious, active, and efficient participation of our people, our revolutionary party and state — in brief, the participation of every man and woman — at all times in order to enable the just orientation of our vanguard party, the PRPB, to prevail in the rational, gradual democratization of the state power in our country.

This is why we must remain available and vigilant at all times in order to work at all levels for the reform of our fundamental law. This will allow us to provide all the working people of Benin with new institutions to ensure the smooth continuation of the liberating struggle and the progressive, methodical establishment of popular democracy in the People's Republic of Benin. I call on you to close ranks, and to strengthen and develop our unity of revolutionary action and thought among the masses in the rural and urban areas. I declare the extraordinary session of the PRPB Central Committee closed. Ready for the revolution and the struggle continues.

Niger-Benin Cooperation Committee Communique

AB240920 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Joint communique on the sixth session of the Niger-Benin joint commission on cooperation, issued in Cotonou on 23 June 1983]

[Text] Within the framework of friendship, fraternity, and good neighborliness existing between the Republic of Niger and the People's Republic of Benin, the sixth session of the Benin-Niger joint commission on cooperation took place in Cotonou at the expert level on 20 and 21 June 1983 and at the ministerial level on 22 and 23 June 1983.

The ministerial delegation from Niger was led by His Excellency Daouda Diallo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and included Almoustapha Soumeila, secretary of state for commerce and transport. The Beninese delegation was led by His Excellency Kifouli Salami, minister of plan, statistics, and economic analysis.

During the deliberations, which took place in a brotherly and harmonious atmosphere, the two parties reviewed all sectors of cooperation between the two countries, namely, transport and communications, trade, mining, and consular and cultural affairs. After a thorough examination of the items listed on the agenda, the two delegations drew up pertinent recommendations aimed at strengthening and revitalizing cooperation between the Republic of Niger and the People's Republic of Benin.

On Wednesday, 22 June 1983, the leader of the Niger delegation and the secretary of state for commerce and transport called on the Beninese ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation, and transport and communications. They also visited the port of Cotonou. They paid a courtesy call on the minister of industry, mines, and energy and on the minister of commerce on Thursday, 23 June 1983. They were received in audience by President Mathieu Kerekou later in the morning.

At the end of his visit to the People's Republic of Benin, the leader of the delegation from the Republic of Niger thanked the Beninese people, their government, and the head of state for the warm African welcome accorded him and his delegation.

The next meeting of the Niger-Benin joint commission on cooperation will take place in Niger in 1984 at a date to be fixed later.

Issued in Cotonou on 23 June 1983. For the Republic of Niger, Daouda Diallo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. For the People's Republic of Benin, Kifouli Salami, minister of plan, statistics, and economic analysis.

GHANA

More on Aftermath of 19 June Coup Attempt

PNDC Announces 'Relaxed' Curfew

AB241310 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The curfew hours have been relaxed. An announcement from the office of the Provisional National Defense Council says until further notice, the curfew hours will be from 2000 to 0500.

Troops Recalled to Barracks

AB260713 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 26 June 83

[Text] An official statement from the Force Headquarters, Flagstaff House, Accra, says all leave for troops has been canceled and all ranks on leave are to return to barracks immediately.

Dissident Leader Visited FRG Embassy

AB270840 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT Jun 83

[Text] The West German ambassador in Accra, Dr J. Fischer, has confirmed the newspaper report that Corporal Giwa visited the embassy 2 days after the attempt to destabilize the country on the 19th of this month. The report was carried by the *Ghanaian Times* last Friday.

In a letter to the editor, the ambassador said Cpl Giwa, who visited the embassy on 23 June, filled up a reception slip under the name Halidu Giwa and identified himself to an embassy official as Cpl Carlos Giwa. It will be recalled that in a short-lived broadcast on the day of the attempt Cpl Giwa described himself as Cpl Carlos Halidu Giwa.

Judicial Council, Post Abolished

AB250840 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The Workers Defense Committees [WDC] of Accra-Tema have announced that with the takeover of the Supreme Court by the masses on the 21st of this month, the Judicial Council has been dissolved and the post of chief justice abolished. The law school has also been closed down indefinitely.

In a statement issued at the end of an emergency meeting in Accra yesterday, the WDC's made it clear that the time has come to do away with the old judicial system once and for all, and to replace it with a more dynamic and egalitarian people's judicial system. The statement said in the meantime, the public tribunal board will constitute an interim people's judicial council with additional representatives comprising two people from the WDC of the judicial service, one layman from the National Defense Committee [NDC], and representatives from each (?of the) farmers and fishermen organizations.

The council will work for new guidelines which will form the basis of the new judicial system for the country. The WDC's said henceforth, people's courts will be established in each NDC demarcated area, and will operate within the zonal coordinating structures of the People's Defense Committees. They also called for a complete overhaul of the attorney general's department.

The statement explained further that by their action, workers themselves have launched a new stage of the revolution, and would ensure the total economic and political liberation of the population. The WDC's pointed out that it became necessary to take over the Free Press and Citadel Press because they have become centers for the destabilization and subversion of the people's revolution. They said democracy does not mean license to do what one plans, and those who abuse it must be disciplined in the supreme interest of national stability and progress.

The workers demanded that government should take over Allied Foods Limited, formerly Cadbury, and called for workers self-management at the plant.

Attorney General on Decision

AB270834 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The attorney general and secretary for justice, Mr G.E.K. Aikins, has said that while he shares the concern expressed by some workers over the failures, a spontaneous and precipitate abolition of the judicial system will not achieve the results envisaged by all those who share this concern. In an interview with the *Ghanaian Times* in Accra, the attorney general said the legal profession itself is not unaware of these shortcomings and that the government has already taken some significant steps, including the reconstitution of the Judicial Council as the beginning of a process of transformation.

Asked to clarify the position of the chief justice and the Judicial Council, the attorney general said the office of the chief justice has not been abolished. The occupant of that office remains Mr Justice F.K. Apaloo and the recently constituted Judicial Council remains in existence with the responsibility indicated in PNDC Law 42. Mr Aikins added that the public tribunals and the board of public tribunals created under PNDC Law 19 will continue to exercise only those powers given them under that law.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the National Defense Committee [NDC] takes place in Accra next Thursday to discuss the decision by the Workers Defense Committees [WDC] of Accra-Tema District abolishing the Judicial Council. The meeting will also consider views and suggestions of other defense committees all over the country. A statement by the secretary to the NDC, Professor Mawuse Dake, in Accra said the NDC has taken note of the resolutions by the WDC's of Accra-Tema district which, among others, abolish the post of chief justice.

Two Arrested for Sedition

AB241340 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Two people have been arrested in connection with the printing of seditious and subversive materials. They are the national secretary of the Association of Recognized Professional Bodies, ARPB, Henry Yartey, and Otokunor Attor, brother of J.N.A. Attor, vice president of the ARPB.

This was announced at a news conference today by Secretary for Internal Affairs Kofi Djin. Mr Djin said the two were arrested on 15 June and Mr Yartey was in the company of five others, including the president of the National Union of Ghana Students, Arthur Kennedy. They had sent three sacks of cyclostyled seditious materials to the Midland Press for cutting and subsequent distribution to the public. Mr Djin said the vigilance of the workers of Midland Press led to the arrest of Mr Yartey, but Arthur Kennedy and his colleagues managed to escape. Otokunor Attor was arrested in his brother's house as he attempted to hide a briefcase containing some more seditious materials.

The secretary observed that one of the leaflets seized from the suspects and dated 14 June, just 4 days before last Sunday's attempt to destabilize the country, made explicit reference to an impending attack by some 11,000 men.

Editorials on Sedition Case

AB251300 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Press review]

[Text] Writing under the caption: "The Link Is Very Clear," the *People's Daily Graphic* says it will be naive for anybody to think that last Sunday's attempt to destabilize the country and the current disclosure of the preparation and planned circulation of seditious materials just before the incident by the National Union of Ghana Students [NUGS] and the Association of Recognized Professional Bodies [ARPB] can be separated. It says the numerous ultimatums given to the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] by the NUGS and ARPB to hand over power clearly bore traces of a contemplated violent action as the climax if the ultimatums were not heeded. The paper says the two bodies and their internal and external allies tried as hard as they could to cause disaffection for the PNDC by first branding the 1983 budget statement as inimical, and secondly, circulating the Special Investigation Board report before it was officially published.

According to the *People's Daily Graphic*, it is no secret that before then, the NUGS and the ARPB had circulated numerous false but also seditious materials against the PNDC both internally and externally. In the face of these provocations, the paper says the PNDC showed limitless patience and coolly absorbed all the insults, incriminations, and the lies. The *Graphic* says the recalcitrant NUGS and ARPB must have taken the council's tolerance for weakness, and even though the greed, arrogance, and cheating of the professional bodies in particular were being exposed in their non-tax payments and other malpractices, they unashamedly persisted in their negative stand against the government that clearly has good intentions for the masses of the people.

The paper says the events of Sunday, 19 June 1983, have laid bare the truth or otherwise of the invasion threats. It says the program which characterized the events has also demonstrated the heartlessness, callousness, and the butchery which are deep seated in the minds of knowledgeable men and aspiring scholars. The paper is of the view that the time has now come for effective countermeasures on the part of the government to stem this new bloody and terrorism [as heard] being perpetrated by the subversionists. It urges all the progressive forces to stand firmly by the PNDC and deal a final blow to the bloodthirsty nation wreckers.

In an editorial: "Not Again," the *Ghanaian Times* says two lessons have (?come) out of the action by dissidents last Sunday. They are the extent of jubilation by enemies of the revolution and the extent of violence and violent intent of the enemies of the revolution. The paper points out that the revolution has not even gone half way in putting down the power of exploiters. Many of these exploiters assaulted People's Defense Committee [PDC] and Workers Defense Committee [WDC] officers and rejoiced with their ill-gotten wealth. It says even though the revolution has brought the oppressed masses the power to take away the undeserved privileges of the exploiters, they have been steered into a course of accomodation and dialogue with them.

It is the view of the *Times* that the enemies of the revolution will never return to fairness and peace. Whenever they have the chance, they will strike against the people. It is of the opinion that the only way open to the people is to deal firmly with them. The revolutionary forces must not be taken off guard again. It says the class struggle has been intensified and henceforth the solidarity between the progressive members of the People's Armed Forces and police and the revolutionary cadres must be solid. PDC's and WDC's must, from now on, organize the people in their zones and look forward in combat readiness.

19 June 'Lessons' Discussed

AB260628 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is now known that a number of significant events preceded last Sunday's attempt to cause confusion in the country. As revealed by the secretary for the interior at his news conference yesterday, security agencies on Wednesday, 15 June, arrested two out of seven persons with subversive leaflets meant for distribution. The leaflets spoke, among other things, of an impending attack. One of them cleared the mystery surrounding the question of who were responsible for shootings that actually occurred at Broadcasting House gate 1 during heavy rains in the evening of 8 June, and in which at least two soldiers on guard duty were wounded. The third significant event is that there were arrests in connection with breaches of security on Friday, 17 June, 2 days before Sunday.

In the light of these events, the security agencies should have been on greater alert than they appeared to be on Sunday. Moreover, the action of the dissidents, starting from the smuggling of arms from Togo and their simultaneous efforts to release servicemen from three different jails, indicate the existence of an evil organization with some kind of effective communication. The government has been aware all the time of the intention of persons in and out of Ghana to subvert the revolution. But it will be true to say that on this occasion, at least, the specific plans of the subversionists and their action culminating in Sunday's event, escaped the attention of the nation's intelligence network. The least said about these matters the better. But no doubt the appropriate lessons have been learned, and remedial measures are being taken.

Before Sunday, June 19, many ardent supporters of the revolution had been disturbed by what could only be described as a defensive position taken by the government in the face of violent provocations by those who openly preach subversion. In this connection one is reassured by the words of the secretary for interior at his press conference yesterday that the law will now be strictly and decisively enforced against all those who not only dabble in politics in contravention of the constitution of their associations, but who also preach violence and practice violence. But most important of all, we add our voice to those who have called for a more active involvement of the people, especially ordinary people, in the security of the state. Surely, some ordinary persons must have got wind of the plots of last week, but they failed to report. Certainly, those dissidents on the run must be hiding somewhere with the knowledge of some individuals, or some of them may have left the country with the help of others. Those helping them may be their partners in subversion or close relations and friends. Or they may be just ordinary people who do not think that the security of the nation is their business.

That is why there is need for intensified political education on the aims of the December 31 revolution, so that with the realization that it is in their interest, ordinary people would be more strongly motivated to take an active part in safeguarding it.

UPPER VOLTA

Swiss Ambassador Interviewed on Cooperation

AB242238 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Excerpt] At State House today, President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo received Jean Olivier Quinche, the Swiss ambassador to Upper Volta, and Anatole Tiendrebeogo, our country's ambassador to the FRG. After his talk with the head of state, the Swiss diplomat was interviewed by the press.

[Begin recording] [Quinche] [Passage indistinct] We discussed possible development projects in Upper Volta, notably in the spheres of reforestation, agriculture, and the education of the blind.

[Unidentified journalist] Could you brief us on the cooperation between (?Upper Volta) and Switzerland?

[Quinche] We maintain cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection and reforestation, the promotion of local materials in the construction sector, in rural development, and in the manufacture of agricultural tools. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Captured CSSR Citizens Reportedly Released

AB270824 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] Paris [no date as received] — One of a large group of Czechoslovaks captured March 12 in Angola by the rebel UNITA movement has died, but the 38 women and children have been released and will return to Prague this week, a French radio correspondent said Sunday upon his return from Angola. He said Jaroslave Navratil had died of exhaustion on April 19. Earlier Sunday, in Lusaka, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said Prague had asked him to help obtain the release of the Czechoslovak nationals and 20 Portuguese captured by UNITA. Zambia has cordial relations with Angola, and has not [as received] shrunk from diplomatic contact with South Africa, UNITA's military backer.

UNITA Loses 6 Killed, 15 Captured in Cuanza Sul

MB261005 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] The UNITA puppet group, in the service of racist South Africa, has in recent days mounted another series of activities which are typical of the group. It has massacred civilian populations and pillaged their property.

In the face of these actions, which show UNITA's clear disregard for human life and human rights, the MPLA-Labor Party Provincial Committee of Huambo, in a note issued the day before yesterday, pointed out that our government must respond with humanitarian aid for those affected by these acts. This call was made with particular reference to (Hungo) municipalty, where the bandits in the pay of South Africa burned about 4,000 houses and stole foodstuffs, clothing, and other property from the residents of (Hungo). Accordingly, the MPLA-Labor Party Provincial Committee of Huambo appealed to members of the party, the youth wing, and the mass and social organizations, as well as all the people in the country, to make any kind of contribution to assist the victims of yet another criminal act by the puppet group, UNITA.

Meanwhile, the armed gangsters, [word indistinct] by imperialism to impede the advance of the revolutionary process in Angola, continue to suffer defeat at the hands of the organized people. In (Wacucungo) area, Cuanza Sul Province, fighters of the People's Defense Organization [ODP] inflicted heavy blows on a band of mercenaries in the pay of racist South Africa which was trying to infiltrate the area. Six bandits were killed during the fight, while 15 others were taken prisoner. A large quantity of war materiel was also captured by the ODP fighters.

LESOTHO

LLA Statement Denies Alleged BCP Party Split

MB250859 Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail in English 25 Jun 83 p 2

[By Helene Zampetakis]

[Text] The Lesotho Liberation Army yesterday denied allegations of a split in the Basotho Congress Party [BCP] and called on people to join the "military action" against the Lesotho Government.

Mr Jacob Mokona and Mr Thabu Libe, both LLA members, issued a statement in Johannesburg condemning allegations of disunity in the BCP as attempts by the "communist Lesotho Government" to create discord. They said the allegations were made by individuals who had "long abandoned the popular armed struggle" and who "diverted funds and material assets away from the feeding, care or sustenance of our fighters." These individuals had exploited the confusion of a number of fighters in the LLA — the military wing of the BCP — to siphon funds from the organisation and build up their own businesses "while Basotho are being butchered by Leabua's regime," they said.

The statement said the LLA was committed to "direct military action" as a means of overthrowing the Lesotho Government, which Mr Mokona described as "corrupt and criminally brutal."

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Seeks Participation in U.S.-USSR Talks

MB261134 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] President Samora Machel has called on the United States and the USSR to include Mozambique in the talks they hold about the Indian Ocean. The president was speaking to the U.S. charge d'affaires and the Soviet ambassador at a reception held in Maputo yesterday to mark the 8th anniversary of Mozambique's independence from Portugal. He told the U.S. diplomat that the situation in southern Africa was serious and he needed to talk to him about it. President Samora went on to invite a general from the U.S. Armed Forces to visit Mozambique for discussions.

The president also held private discussions with the first secretary of the British Embassy, (Eddy Grange), on matters of interest to the two countries. The discussions were later joined by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano and Secretary of State for Defense Tomas Salomao. President Samora was scheduled to visit Britian

in May, but the visit was postponed because of the British general elections.

During yesterday's reception, President Samora greeted diplomats one by one. He also spoke to the representative of the Red Cross. The president asked the representative whether the Red Cross wanted Mozambique to negotiate with the Pretoria-backed bandits. The representative replied by saying the Red Cross was neutral in conflicts. However, President Samora told him that The Red Cross was not neutral, adding: You never wanted anything to do with us when we were fighting. Now you want me to talk to the bandits. No, you are not neutral.

President Samora also addressed a rally in the sports stadium at the end of a parade by thousands of young people. He praised the role played by the country's youth in winning independence and in defending it against external aggression.

Machel Attends Independence Day Ceremonies

MB260525 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1045 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Excerpt] President Samora Machel this morning laid a wreath at the Mozambique Heroes Monument in Maputo on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the founding of the Mozambique Liberation Front and the 8th anniversary of the proclamation of national independence. Present at the ceremony were members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, cadres from the Mozambique Armed Forces, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. A group of Portuguese officials was also present.

Hosts Independence Day Reception

MB260627 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 26 Jun 83

[Text] At a reception he gave for officials and cadres of the party and government, as well as for members of the diplomatic corps, on the celebration of the 8th anniversary of national independence, President Samora Machel paid tribute to the people of Mozambique for their involvement in the defense of the fatherland, in the fight against hunger, and in the construction of socialism. In a special toast, Field Marshal Samora Machel congratulated his colleagues who were completing 20 years service in the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM].

In his speech, Field Marshal Samora Machel pointed out that the Europeans have not made any effort to understand the African man, whom they look down upon. He added that Africans must help the Europeans to free themselves of this attitude. President Samora Machel also condemned those Africans who ape the West and thus lose their own originality and personality.

At the beginning of the reception, the minister of national defense, Lieutenant General Alberto Chipande, reaffirmed the determination of the Mozambique Armed Forces to defend the fatherland against imperialist aggression.

Receives Congratulatory Messages

MB260545 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Messages of congratulations on the independence anniversary have been arriving in Maputo from governments, parties, and liberation movements around the world. The Soviet Communist Party and Government hailed the growing cooperation between the Soviet Union and Mozambique and the Frelimo Party's resistance to the maneuvers of imperialism and the internal reaction.

The new president of China, Li Xiannian, sent warm greetings and said China wanted to consolidate and develop its friendly relations with Mozambique.

President Reagan of the United States said in a message to President Samora Machel: We hope to continue the progress made until now, working with your excellency to improve the prospects of peace in southern Africa and relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the United States.

The president of the African National Congress of South Africa, Oliver Tambo, said the ANC and people of South Africa were bound to the Mozambique people by a common struggle for a common cause against a common enemy. Mr Tambo said the ANC was sure that the revolutionary struggle led by President Samora Machel would triumph.

Provincial Head Leads Meeting on Evacuations

MB251022 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, yesterday presided over a meeting in Beira during which a provincial operational command was set up with the task of administering and supervising the process of evacuating unemployed people from the cities. The meeting drew up guidelines to facilitate the implementation of decisions made by the party and the state connected with the evacuation of unproductive people and the curbing of the uncontrolled influx of people from the countryside to the cities.

Work is a necessity which must be carried out by all of us, Marcelino dos Santos emphasized at the meeting. He added that in the cities there is a limit to the number of people that businesses and factories can absorb, while in rural areas there is a place for all. This senior party official also referred to the need to have the people participate actively in the fight against famine, and armed and unarmed bandits.

Resistance Radio Resumes, Changes Name

MB241110 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Station "Editorial"]

[Text] As of 1 July, the people of Mozambique will regularly hear on their radios the voice of the people's revolt, now under the name "Voice of the Mozambique National Resistance."

The "Voice of Free Africa" had fulfilled its task and made history since its inception in 1976. It attracted millions of Mozambicans as its listeners. In short, all those from Rovuma to Maputo were kept informed and motivated through its broadcasts, and thus it doubtlessly constituted an important instrument in the fight against Machel's oppression.

The struggle developed both in quantity and quality. Along with the development of the armed struggle for liberation, there appeared the need for equal development and evolution in a number of sectors. Accordingly, our broadcasts were interrupted for about 1 and 1/2 months. During this period, the format of the radio and its broadcasts were restructured. Improvements have been made and new techniques introduced. The name of the radio itself has now been changed to the "Voice of the Mozambique National Resistance."

With the "Voice of the Mozambique National Resistance" as our information medium and [word indistinct] the armed wing of our people, we will achieve the true dimensions required of us by the Mozambique people. Actively and with a true revolutionary (?spirit), we will spread our message of liberty throughout the country. News concerning the country, as well as continued denunciation of the crimes committed by Frelimo and information regarding the advance of our fight, will be carried regularly by our radio. At the same time, through reports [words indistinct] of the struggle and national situation.

Thus, with the improvement in our structure and programs, we are certain that the radio will meet the needs of the present phase of the struggle and become one of the main instruments in the fight for the liberation of the country.

The struggle continues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Has No Comment on U.S. Remarks

MB241841 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, says he does not want to comment on statements by an American under secretary of state, Mr Eagleberger, before he has studied the full text of the remarks. Mr Botha was approached for comment in Cape Town today, after Mr Eagleberger had said in San Francisco that South Africa should get out of southern Angola and South-West Africa. He added, however, that Angola, on the other hand, could make that possible by ensuring that Cuban forces withdrew from its territory.

Mr Eagleberger, who is in charge of political affairs, said that in order to oppose those from outside Africa who claim the right to violent intervention in South-West Africa, the United States had to become involved in southern Africa.

Reportage on Prime Minister's Address in Nelspruit

Discusses Neighbors' Control of ANC

MB250639 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says there are neighboring states which have responded to South Africa's request not to harbor ANC terrorists. Mr Botha made the announcement at a public meeting at Nelspruit in an address in which he emphasized again that South Africa would act against those countries which allowed their territories to be used as springboards for terrorists.

Referring to Mozambique, Mr Botha said that country would have to learn that cooperation with South Africa would bring prosperity.

Turning to a general election, Mr Botha said he planned to serve his full term of office until its expiry next year.

Comments on Referendum, Reform

MB251239 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1211 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] Nelspruit, June 24, SAPA — The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, appealed tonight for national unity and warned that a country could not be built on hatred and mistrust.

Addressing a National Party meeting in Nelspruit, he said that at a time when the government most needed the support of all South Africans to secure peace, stability and security in the country, the national will of the people was being broken down through petty political differences.

"I appeal to you to support each other to uphold civilised standards built on peace, progress and security," he said. He added that South Africa could "make as many bombs as we want to...but if you do not have stability, you cannot subsist."

South Africans had to face up to the realities of the problems that we confronting the country. [sentence as received]

"We as a government and a party fully appreciate that we as a country are living in serious times. We cannot escape the consequences of these serious times," said Mr Botha. The government was fully aware of the problems and was doing everything in its power to remove any stumbling blocks to peace and stability. "But no government can achieve this alone. It needs the help of its people."

Mr Botha said the National Party believed its constitutional reform programme was the only solution to the country's problems. He added, however, that the government would not go

ahead with the reforms unless it obtained the mandate of the electorate in the forthcoming referendum.

He stressed that the reforms would not endanger the future of the whites in any way.

Deputy Minister Cited on New Resettlement Policy

MB270500 Pretoria Die Transvaler in Afrikaans 20 Jun 83 p 3

[Excerpt] The days of removing black communities by force and settling them on bare veld are over.

The approach that the government is now following is that removals will take place only if it is absolutely necessary and that removals should be in conjunction with a purposeful economic development in the areas where black communities are resettled.

This is according to Mr Hennie van der Walt, deputy minister of cooperation and development, in an interview following a report by the Surplus People's Project in which it leveled sharp criticism against the resettlement policy and its application.

The new approach followed in the past 18 months has already had impressive results. In this period, between 250,000 and 300,000 blacks have been removed on a voluntary basis from so-called "black spots" to the national states because the living conditions, economic opportunities, and new residential areas there are considerably better.

The deputy minister said: I concede that we have been at fault in the past, so much so that black communities were removed by force and frequently resettled in hazardous conditions.

AWB Men Receive Sentences on Arms Convictions

MB250909 Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail in English 25 Jun 83 p 3

[Excerpts] Women sobbed and supporters sang at the Klerksdorp Regional Court yesterday when the leader of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Eugene Terre'Blanche, received two suspended sentences and a fine of R300 [rands] for illegally possessing arms and ammunition.

After sentence had been passed in a hushed court room, a hundred or so AWB supporters, who had packed the public gallery for most of the day, rose and applauded the magistrate, Mr E.D. Wyethe. And when Terre'Blanche emerged from the advocate's rooms clutching his wife's hands, the crowd began singing in Afrikaans Psalm 146 — "Praise the Lord."

Later Terre'Blanche told the *Rand Daily Mail*: "The state's evidence did not succeed totally before this court. The court has made it clear that the arms were probably planted on me."

Earlier, in finding both Terre'Blanche and his co-accused Jacob Viljoen guilty of illegally possessing an AK-47 assault rifle, 362 rounds of ammunition, and a .22 Gecado revolver, Mr Wyethe said the court had serious doubts about Terre'Blanche's claim that the items had been planted on him. "But nothing was said to counter this claim. Therefore Terre'Blanche's evidence of planting could be true. However I find him guilty of possession because he did not report this find to the police at once," he said.

He sentenced Terre'Blanche to one year's jail suspended for five years for possessing the AK-47, six months' jail suspended for five years for possessing the ammunition, and R300 (or three months) for the revolver.

Viljoen was sentenced to 18 months' on the first charge, nine months' on the ammunition charge, and R300 or three months' for possessing the revolver. His first two sentences will run concurrently with the 15 years he is already serving for terrorism.

ANC Message on South Africa Freedom Day

EA252117 Dar es Salaam in English to East, Central, and Southern Africa 1900 GMT 25 Jun 83

[Text] The ANC of South Africa declared today that it will not rest until South Africa was free and pledged its determination to step up the liberation struggle.

In a message to mark the South African freedom day tomorrow, the ANC said it was making the commitment as a result of the growing desperation of the Pretoria regime, which has failed to stop the (?advance) of the liberation struggle [words indistinct]

The message, signed by the ANC secretary general, Ndugu Alfred Nzo, warned that ANC militants will continue to deliver harder blows against the racist regime and that the pledge was an obligation that the combatants will, as before, (?step up the struggle) [word indistinct].

South Africa Freedom Day is remembered for the adoption of the freedom charter by the entire liberation movements of South Africa when it launched the liberation struggle in South Africa 28 years ago.

ANC Representative on Antiapartheid Struggle

LD242052 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1448 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] Berlin, 24 Jun (ADN) — The racist regime in Pretoria is intensifying its reign of terror over the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and stepping up its terroristic acts of aggression against the independent countries in the region. This was part of a statement made at a press conference in Berlin on Friday by Anthony L. Mongalo, head of the African National Congress mission in the GDR. During this event held in connection with South African Liberation Day (26 June) he noted that Pretoria is supported in this by its allies, particularly the United States.

South Africa seeks to destabilize its neighboring countries economically and politically through these attacks in order to overturn their legitimate people's governments. The fight against alleged ANC military bases in these countries is used as a pretext by Pretoria. The ANC representative stressed that the ANC maintains no military bases outside South Africa.

Anthony Mongalo recalled that the now-famous campaign of consciously violating racist laws began on 26 June 1952. It was led by ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who will have to spend his 65th birthday in prison in July. Today the suppressed and exploited rise openly against all forms of oppression by the apartheid system. The democratic movement in the country, through its support for the ANC, has eliminated the effect of the ban on the organization. The number of white citizens in the country who recognize that there can be a common future for blacks and whites in South Africa only in accordance with the principles of the Freedom Charter accepted on 26 June 1955 is growing.

The ANC representative thanked the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and all progressive forces in the world for their support in the struggle against the apartheid regime. He stressed that the socialist community of states, through its internationalist solidarity, has proved itself a tried and tested ally and friend in the liberation struggle.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Comments on Parliamentary System

MB270715 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Jun 83

[Text] The government is seriously working on the transformation of the present parliamentary system with the aim of giving it a Zimbabwean outlook. Speaking at a rally at Ndanga in the Zaka communal area, the minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, pointed out that most of the present laws are not compatible with social justice. Comrade Zvobgo said the government is also working on a program to acquire more mobile units so that the registration of voters exercise can be completed on time.

Addressing the same meeting, the deputy minister of roads and road traffic, Comrade Nelson Mawema, announced that the (Mashingo) Province is to launch a rural magazine in the immediate future. The magazine will keep the people in the province aware of all political developments as well as inform them on all development programs.

Addressing the same rally, the minister of education and culture, Comrade Dzingai Mutumbuka, criticized some teachers in the area who belong to the Watch Tower Church for refusing to teach such subjects, like history, because of their belief that they conflict with their religious belief. Comrade Mutumbuka said whoever does not want to educate Zimbabwean children on the political developments of this country should not be in the teaching field.